THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Lunny House Must Stick with Senior Units

By Corrie M. Anders

Six luxury condominiums that have been a hard sell to seniors are back on the market with marked-down prices after the developers lost their plea before the Planning Commission to offer the 24th Street units to the general public.

The commission's 5-1 denial was a major triumph for senior advocates and Noe Valley's neighborhood activists, who complained that the two-year-old units, originally priced at more than \$700,000, were not "affordable."

Critics also told the commission that the developers compounded their own problems by not aggressively courting the senior market.

"It appears they didn't do much to sell them or convince seniors to give up their cars," said Eleanore Gerhardt, a nearby 24th Street resident. The building has no parking garage, and the units are reserved for seniors 62 and older without cars.

Gerhardt was one of 24 people who signed up at the commission's Sept. 27 public hearing to oppose the elimination of age restrictions at the complex, located at 3953 24th Street across from Bell Market on the site of the old Lunny House.

Anastasia Yovanopoulos, a retired preschool teacher who lives at 24th and Dolores streets, said she had been "sold the same bill of goods"—that the condos would be affordable for seniors. She said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Noe Valley's Expert Pavement Pounders

Walking the Walk With Leslie & Sam

By Lorraine Sanders

F or any writer, working with a coauthor can prove to be a creative challenge. But a collaboration becomes infinitely more challenging if your coauthor gets accidentally sucked out to sea while conducting research atop a cliff near the ruins of the Sutro Baths.

Luckily, that did not happen to local author Leslie Crawford or to her co-author, Sam Fox, when they were traversing the rocky landscape where San Francisco's legendary swimming palace stood from 1896 to 1966. But that doesn't mean the thought didn't cross Crawford's mind.

"He was walking on a rock, you know, where the waves come in and sweep people off," Crawford says, describing one of the many adventures the pair had while working on *City Walks with Kids: San Francisco*, a boxed deck of 50 cards that map entertaining walks parents can do with their kids (Chronicle Books 2007).

Across the table, his left forearm decorated in streaks of black permanent marker, co-author Sam rolls his eyes in response to Crawford's alarm.

"The wave was, like, going negative



Ernie Solon spins the dial on his handpainted slot machine, one of the top attractions in his front-yard gallery of amusements on Chenery Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Welcome to the Funhouse

Ernie Solon: Neighborhood Carnival Maker

By Lisa Powell

he four kids strolling down Chenery Street, slurping on orange popsicles, suddenly stop and point over the chain-link fence at 240 Chenery, whispering excitedly. Nailed to a tree in the large front yard is a small wooden box with a glass front. Inside the box is a little cardboard man dressed in red boxing gloves and shorts, dancing back and forth in constant jabbing motion. Atop a tall pillar nearby is a miniature merry-go-round, with hand-crafted figures riding on tiny horses, tigers, and giraffes. A few feet away, sitting on its own pedestal, is the head of a giant fortune teller with a turquoise and yellow turban and a bushy goatee. Next to that, the hand-painted faces of Custer and Sitting Bull stare out from a replica of a slot machine, from the "Little Bighorn Casino." A windmill

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

miles per hour," he says, pleading his case. Crawford clearly doesn't buy this argument.

"He thought I was being too protective," she says.

If this doesn't sound like an ordinary relationship between two authors collaborating on a book project, that's because it isn't. In addition to being Crawford's research assistant and key consultant on the project, Sam Fox is Crawford's 10year-old son.

"I was just basically going on the walks, giving her company, and I gave a kid's opinion," Fox said of his role in creating the deck, which features sturdy,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



Sam Fox, with the help of his mom, Leslie Crawford, has come up with a deck of cards that guides kids and parents to the best walking adventures in San Francisco. *Photo by Beverly Tharp*

Noe Is Adoption Central for S.F.'s Foster Kids

By Olivia Boler

Noe Valley—often called Stroller Valley—is home to lots of new parents. With the recent arrival on 24th Street of a city-sponsored adoption agency, expect to see even more dads and moms in the neighborhood.

In May, a non-profit organization called Family Builders opened a branch in a rear office space at 3953 24th Street. Here in a modest sunny space, Family Builders is helping San Francisco's foster children find permanent adoptive homes and mentors to help them navigate the wider world.

An Oakland-based adoption agency with over 30 years in the field, Family Builders expanded to Noe Valley to perform a project in partnership with the City and County of San Francisco. Called Adoption SF, the project matches families (and individuals) with the hundreds of kids in San Francisco's foster-care system who are currently looking for homes.

The children who are placed with families rarely see the inside of the 24th Street office, but a number of important things

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Wells Fargo Banking on Rite Aid Spot

By Corrie M. Anders

F or 11 years, Wells Fargo Bank has taken care of its Noe Valley customers and handled millions of dollars out of a cramped shoebox of a branch on 24th Street.

That's about to change.

The bank is in contract to take over approximately half of the recently closed Rite Aid drugstore at 4045 24th Street—a few doors away from its current cubbyhole at 4023 24th Street near Noe.

Joanne Schultz, Wells Fargo's San Francisco regional president, said the bank is in lease negotiations with the property owner and is working with the city to obtain various city permits.

Last month, the project won Planning Commission approval, and if all goes as expected, the branch would relocate sometime next spring.

"We are excited about really increasing our space," Schultz said. "It's going to be a very nice brand-new facility."

The 2.827-square-foot-space, four

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Voice Staff Recipes!

See back page

Ready for Thanksgiving?

We are ready for you! We're your local neighborhood source for all your Thanksgiving cooking, entertaining, & gift giving needs. If you haven't stopped by in a while, check us out -- we've received hundreds of new items in the past month. To help you plan your Thanksgiving meal we offer you these checklists highlighting some of the more popular items we carry. We've got what you need -- why go downtown?

1	Turkey & Soup	More Cookin'	Pies, Cakes & Desserts	Tea, Coffee & Espresso				
Ì	☐ Roasting pans	☐ Asparagus steamer pots	☐ Pie dishes (Emile Henry!)	☐ Cuisinart coffee maker				
ı	☐ Kitchen twine	☐ Le Creuset & Lodge	☐ Silpat, Roulpat	☐ Electric kettle				
1	☐ Turkey lacers	Dutch Ovens	☐ Parchment paper & rounds	☐ Burr coffee grinder				
1	☐ Oven thermometer	☐ All-Clad, Le Creuset,	☐ Round, square &	☐ Mighty Leaf tea				
1	☐ Meat thermometer	Swiss Diamond, Fissler,	rectangular cake pans	☐ Honeys				
1	☐ Fridge thermometer ·	Chantal, Scanpan &	☐ Bundt pans (Nordic Ware!)	☐ Sugar cubes				
ī	☐ Cheesecloth	Lodge skillets .	☐ Silicone bakeware	☐ Illy coffee				
	☐ Stuffing bag	☐ All-Clad pots & pans	☐ Cupcake pans & papers	☐ French press				
ı	☐ Carving knife	☐ All-Clad, Lodge &	☐ Decorating bags & tips	☐ Stovetop espresso maker				
1	☐ Electric carving knife	Le Creuset Grill Pans	☐ Icing spatulas	Tea accessories				
Ì	☐ Fat separator	☐ The Chestnutter	☐ Food coloring	☐ Tea kettles by Simplex,				
ı	☐ Baster	☐ Splatter screen	☐ Colored sugars & sprinkles	Le Creuset, Oxo & others				
1	☐ Turkey lifters	☐ Universal lid	☐ Springform & loaf pans	☐ Teapots by Bee House,				
ì	☐ Carving board	☐ Colander	☐ Flour sifter & pastry blender	Bauer, Pillivuyt				
X	and Poultry shears &	☐ Seafood tools	☐ Rolling pins	D. I.C.				
1	kitchen shears	☐ Egg slicer	☐ Tart dishes & ramekins	Breakfast				
ī	☐ Turkey frills	☐ Salad spinner	☐ Food scales	☐ Griddles				
	☐ Basting brush	☐ Pepper & salt mills	☐ Mixing bowls	☐ Egg & pancake shapes				
	☐ Flavor injector	☐ Potato masher & ricer	☐ Spatulas & Whisks	☐ Egg cups & poachers				
ī	☐ Roasting rack	☐ Food mill	☐ Cookie Sheets (Vollrath!)	☐ Jams & jellies				
	☐ Timers	☐ Garlic press	☐ Vanilla Queen vanillas	☐ Waffle Irons				
ı	☐ Stock pot	☐ Mandoline (Oxo!)	☐ Baking chocolate	☐ Krups toasters				
1	☐ Ladle	☐ Peelers (many types)	(Schokinag, Valrhona, &	☐ Citrus juicers				
ì	☐ Spice bag	☐ Graters (Microplane!)	Scharffen-Berger)	☐ Grapefruit spoons				
ı	☐ Immersion blender	☐ Pillivuyt & Emile Henry	☐ Cocoa powder	☐ Omelet pans				
1	☐ Stand blender	baking dishes	☐ Cake stands	☐ Hot Cocoa mix				
1	☐ Cutting board	☐ Salts & peppers & spices	☐ Candy thermometers	Linens				
1	☐ Wooden spoons	☐ Olive oils (Stonehouse!)	☐ Timers ·	☐ Aprons by Jessie Steele,				
I	Knives & Chopping	☐ Vinegars (Katz & Co.)	☐ Cooling racks	Mimi the Sardine &				
ī	2 2	☐ Mortars and Pestles	☐ Cardboard cake rounds	Rienzi (Kids' too!)				
	☐ Knives by Wüsthof,		☐ Cookie cutters (hundreds!)	□ Napkins				
ı	Messermeister, Shun,	Wine, Cheese & Bar	☐ Measuring cups & spoons	☐ Tablecloths				
ī	Henckels, Global,	☐ Wine glasses & decanters	Muscovado, Demerara sugar					
	Sabatier Carbon Steel,	by Riedel & Schott	☐ KitchenAid & Cuisinart	☐ Dish & hand towels				
ı	& Kyocera Ceramic	☐ "O" wine glasses	Mixers	☐ Pot holders & mitts				
Ī	☐ Knife sharpener (stone,	☐ Slate cheese trays	☐ Hand Mixers	_				
ì	manual, electric)	☐ Bamboo serving boards	☐ Apple corers & slicers	Sweets				
١	☐ Cutting boards (maple,	☐ Wine openers (Rabbit!)	☐ Pie servers	Chocolates by Knipschildt,				
	bamboo, plastic,	☐ Cocktail shaker	☐ Popover pans	Poco Dolce,				
ī	Epicurean, Architec)		☐ Gift packaging for baked	Chocolat Moderne, &				
	— e dibiliare room processor	☐ Lace doilies	goods & candies	Charles Chocolates				
١	(14 & 11 cup, mini)	☐ Lemon squeezer	☐ Chocolate molds	☐ Yummy chocolate bars				
l	Cookhooks Between us		Γο Cover, you're sure to find a co	oolshaals van Libra				
ı				•				
L	Knije Sharpening: Dr	op off any Sunday by 6pm ar	nd they'll be ready Tuesday at 11	am.				
L	Knife Sharpening: Drop off any Sunday by 6pm and they'll be ready Tuesday at 11am. Thanksgiving Knife Sharpening Event!							
	On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 17th, from 10am-2pm get your knives sharpened while you wait!							
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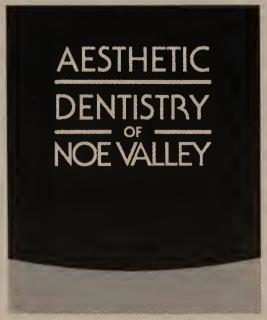
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Mayor **Gavin Newsom**



District Attorney Kamala Harris



Sheriff **Mike Hennessey**

— CITY PROPOSITIONS —

A - YES — Transit Reform

B - YES — Limit on Hold-Over Service

C - YES — Public Hearings on Ballot Measures

D - YES — Library Preservation Fund

E - NO — Question Time

F - YES — Retirement Benefits for Airport Officers

G - YES — Golden Gate Park Horse Stables Funding

H - NO — Parking Initiative

I - YES — Small Business Assistance Center

J - NO — Universal Wi-Fi Policy Statement

K – Street Advertising Policy Statement
NO ENDORSEMENT

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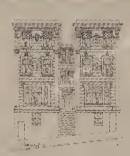


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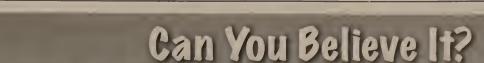
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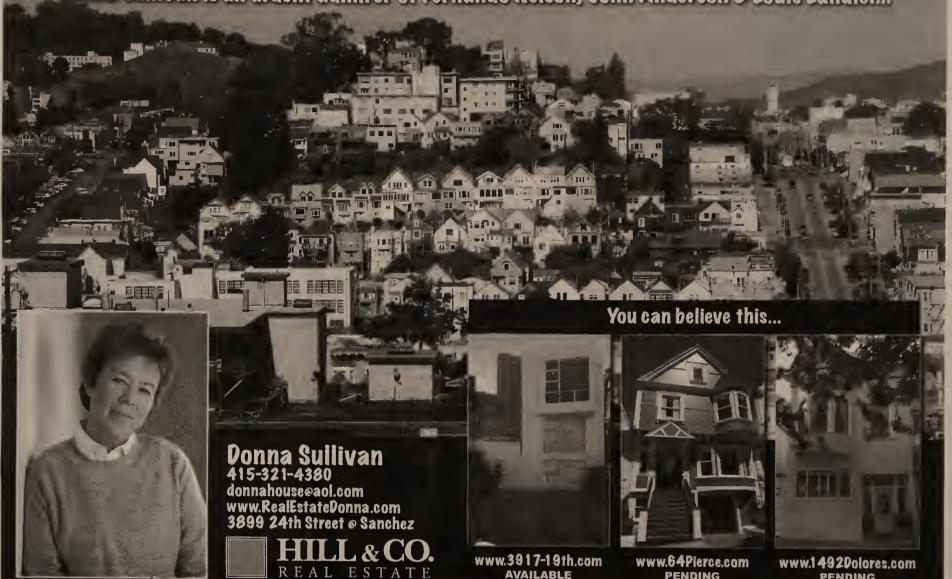
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John Horner's home state was New Jersey, hence Jersey Street...

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Donna Sullivan is an ardent admirer of Fernando Nelson, John Anderson & Louis Landler...



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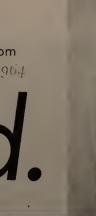
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Dy Going Good.

Developers Told to Keep Senior Units

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the developers' claim that they couldn't find senior buyers was "disingenuous" and that she suspected the building owners planned to go after general public sales all along.

Five people spoke in favor of the change, including the property owners.

Jeremiah Cullinane said he and his partners—Denis Cullinane and Eileen Long-had lost more than \$600,000 on the development, which also includes two ground-floor commercial spaces that were leased earlier this year.

"If anyone thinks we're not trying to sell them, it's a joke," Jeremiah Cullinane told the commission, rebutting complaints that open houses for the condos were spotty and that it was difficult for interested persons to get information.

Long's husband, builder Brian Maloney, testified that the unsold units were costing the partnership \$21,592 a month in construction loan fees.

"No matter what we do now, we will lose money," Maloney said. "The only person making money here is the bank."

New Prices to Be Set This Month

The commission's rejection left the developers once again coping with how much to charge for the condos-five onebedroom units and one studio-which are ideally located in the heart of Noe Valley's shopping district.

"We are still having to fine-tune the prices," said Long, who is also a real estate agent with Vanguard Properties in San Francisco. New prices would be set this month, she said.

The one-bedroom units previously had been reduced to \$559,000 from as much as \$745,000 when they were first offered for sale two years ago. The last price for the studio was below \$500,000.

It was the failure of even those lower prices to attract seniors that prompted the developers to ask the city to drop the age restriction. Their proposed modification also would have required the building owners to reconfigure the six condos to five units. In addition, the developers would have made a substantial payment into the city's housing fund.

The city's planning staff took note of the static sales and the fact that the city encourages new housing without parking along public transit corridors such as 24th Street. The staff recommended approval, though planner Elizabeth Watty acknowledged public sentiment that the developers were "insincere" in their intentions to sell to seniors.

Conflict Goes Back Five Years

The development has been problematic and controversial since its inception five years ago.

In May 2002, the Long-Cullinane partnership paid the Robert and Evelyn Lunny Estate \$700,000 for a boarded-up house that had become a neighborhood eyesore. They announced plans to demolish the century-old residence—which upset preservationists—and replace it with a contemporary-style building that would have four upscale condos, groundfloor commercial space, and underground parking for four cars.

A number of nearby neighbors, merchants, and civic activists protested that the proposed four-story structure was too big and that cars entering and leaving the garage were a potential danger to pedestrians on 24th Street's busy sidewalk.

To win neighborhood support, the owners agreed to several compromises: seniors-only housing with no parking, a less bulky building, and a more harmonious Victorian façade. The building also would have six units—one of them a "bonus" for building senior housing—instead of four as originally planned.

Location Isn't Everything

Long said the partners believed that the condos-beautiful by all accountswould appeal to seniors who wanted to downsize from larger homes but remain in Noe Valley, with its easy access to shops, restaurants, and services.

"I was confident I could sell this building," Long said, noting that the real estate market was booming in mid-2005. "I had what every real estate agent wants: location, location, location.'

Four months later, at Christmas time, Long said the group had not one single offer. Over the next year, she said she appealed to any potential buyer who would listen. "I was very frank with them: make me an offer," she said. "No one bit."

Lack of Space a Problem

In an interview after the hearing, Long said a combination of shortcomings hurt sales. The main obstacle was that the condos only had one bedroom. She said the city required that a senior building have three means of egress, and that cut into living space. The condos range from a onebedroom, one-bath unit with about 450 square feet, to one-bedroom, two-bath units with 700 to 750 square feet of space.

"We had a lot of interest, but everyone wanted two-bedroom units," Long said.

The lack of parking also was an impediment. "The kids loved the place and wanted their parents to be there," she said, but seniors worried that they couldn't get to doctors' appointments or run other errands without their cars.

Another downside was the extra expense of living in the building. In addition to mortgage payments, the complex carried \$450 a month in homeowner dues, and seniors were "just not interested in that," Long said.

What About Renting?

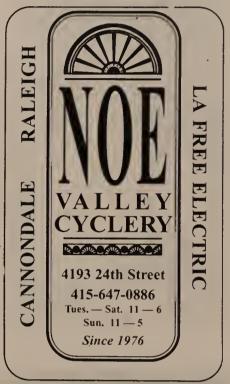
If the owners are unable to sell the units, 25th Street resident Charlie Spiegel told the commissioners at the meeting, the condo complex would be an excellent choice as rental housing for older residents.

"It's one of only three elevator buildings on the commercial strip in Noe Valley," he said. "It's perfect for seniors."

Spiegel appeared with his mother, Ruth Spiegel, 80, a 19th Street resident who said she had been looking for five years to find an appropriate apartment nearer

"I don't have a car. A flat street where I can walk to stores is important to me," she said.

But Long said her team had no plans to rent the condos. "The amount of rent needed to cover our mortgage doesn't work for us," she said. "We're kind of between a rock and a hard place."





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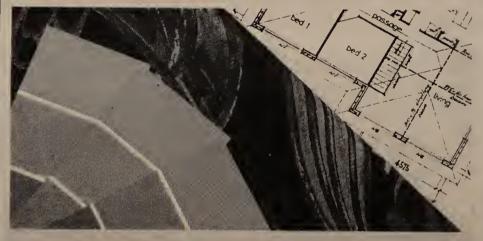
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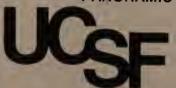


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Foster Kids Find Homes Through Adoption SF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

go on there, specifically the recruitment. counseling, and training of the adults who will foster or adopt them. Adoption SF also focuses on recruiting families to care for foster children with disabilities or special needs.

Another program the office heads is the Youth Permanency Program, which places older foster children, ages 9 to 18, with a person or family, even if they aren't adopted or fostered by them.

"When the children 'age out' of the system, it's important that they have a permanent connection of some kind, whether it's through a legal guardian, adoption, family, or some sort of network of people who are important in their lives," explains Laurie Sands, the project coordinator for the Noe Valley office. "The statistics for children who don't have that are really bad. These kids often wind up in jail, on the streets, or homeless."

In fact, according to Jill Jacobs, the executive director of Family Builders who works at the Oakland office, 65 percent of foster children wind up homeless within six months of aging out. "Through the Youth Permanency Program," Sands says, "they can have the help they need to go to college or just deal with survival issues."

Outreach to LGBT Families

Jacobs says there are over 76,000 children in California's foster-care system, some 1,700 in San Francisco alone. "They are all ages, zero to 17, and 70 percent are of color, mostly Latino or African-American. Many are older." Many have been shifted from one group facility to another and are seeking some stability in their lives.

Family Builders looks for prospective adoptive families from all walks of life, including single parents, unmarried couples, and people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. In fact, Family Builders has what Jacobs calls a "very elaborate campaign to reach out to potential LGBT families. We have had advertisements on BART, Muni, and billboards on Market and Sanchez streets. I don't think anyone in the country has done that before," says Jacobs.

"Transracial" adoptions, meaning families of one racial background adopting a child or children of another, are also acceptable. What really matters, according to Sands, is that the children will be able to stay, live, and grow in or near the communitics from which they come. "They might have siblings in the community or other relatives. It's important that the adoptive family demonstrate a stability, that they're going to stick around San Francisco or the Bay Arca."

The Noe Valley office, which has a staff of 10 to 12, depending on the day of the week, hopes to do 40 to 50 adoptions per year, Jacobs says.

Fostering Comes Before Adopting

What Sands calls the "front end of the adoption process" is a long, thorough one, as it determines whether potential families are a good fit. It starts with an orientation, held on the second Tuesday of each month in the downstairs conference room of the Noe Valley office (or the first Saturday in Oakland). The orientation is followed by a preliminary application and a visit by social workers to the applicant's home. Next, applicants must apply for both fostering and adopting, since the family will be the child's foster family before the adoption goes through. They also are fingerprinted and checked for criminal records.

Applicants then undergo training, to help prepare them for different steps in the process as well as for issues that might arise.

"Each step of the way, we ask them, 'Is this what you want? Do you think you can deal with this?" says Sands. "A successful adoption usually comes from families who are flexible in their expectations and well prepared."

If the applicants indeed indicate they are still interested in a foster-child adoption and the social worker thinks them appropriate, the family is sent another packet of information.

"We check out things like their home insurance, and they're assigned a case worker who will spend a minimum of eight hours with them going over a number of issues," says Sands. These issues include their own childhood experiences, their own relationships, jobs, educational experience, experience with other children, how they deal with issues of substance abuse, their understanding of child development, what sort of local support system they have, and—if they already have children—the way they interact with them. All of this helps Family Builders get to know the families, she says.

After the application has been ap-



Laurie Sands of Adoption SF (right) is part of the support system for 2-year-old Bobby and his adoptive parents Ray McKenzie (left) and Matt Homier of Noe Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

proved by the county, families have 90 days to find a match with a child in the San Francisco foster-care system. If they don't within that time period, the search widens to all of California. The entire process from start to finish can take five to nine months.

For families thinking about adopting but wary of costs, if they choose to adopt through Family Builders, there are no fees charged. "That would be a barrier to finding families," says Jacobs, who also notes the biggest challenge for the organization is recruiting people to adopt or foster children. Funding for the various programs, including family trainings and home visits, comes from Family Builders' contract with the city, donations, and community and corporate support.

"We Can Handle It"

"Every child in the foster-care system is considered special needs," says Sands. "And that can run the gamut from abuse, exposure to drugs and alcohol in utero, or being neglected."

"I don't like the term 'special needs," says Ray McKenzie, a Noe Street resident, who, with his partner Matt Homier, adopted Bobby, age 2, when the boy was four months old. "I remember looking at the list of what was considered special needs and crossing things out, saying, 'I can deal with this, and this, and this. This is special needs? No, it's not!"

McKenzie says Bobby, a sweet-natured little guy who likes rubber duckies and drawing pictures, was "chemically exposed" and given up to foster care the

day he was born. If there have been any ill effects, they have yet to surface, says

McKenzie says it took eight months to. find the match with Bobby, and that the whole process seems more daunting than it is. "I really appreciated it and found it enriching actually, because [Matt and 1] had to look at ourselves and what we thought we believed, and what we thought we feared. And you realize that what you think of as your biggest fear really isn't that scary. We can handle it!"

It helps, McKenzie adds, that he's found a support system through Family Builders. He's attended trainings and seminars at the Lunny Building, joined a parents group, and even hopes to mentor newer families going through the adoption process. "I've made friends through Family Builders," he says. "They're in it for the long haul."

And by the way, November is Adoption Awareness Month, so if you've been considering adoption, now may be the time to get more information. Call 970-9601, e-mail adoptionsf@familybuilders .org, or visit www.adoptionsf.org.







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REAL ESTATE

Wells Fargo Gets Go-Ahead from City

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

times as large as the bank's current site, will offer a more comfortable working environment for both customers and employees, she said.

The branch now has three teller windows and a single desk. The new location would feature eight teller windows and

Schultz said the bank also would provide expanded financial services for mortgages and investments. "This is what our customers have been asking for quite some time," she said.

In addition, the branch would provide better service for its merchant business

The bank "probably" will double the number of employees at the new location, going up to about 12 workers, said Schultz. The current staff will remain intact, and Andrew Espeto will continue as branch manager, she said.

The bank plans to make space available for after-hours workshops, including homebuyer seminars and mortgage training. The new location will continue to have ATM service.

Adrian Putra, a planner with the San Francisco Planning Department, said Wells Fargo was prepared to spend an estimated \$300,000 in construction costs to make improvements, including dividing the space into two commercial storefronts.

The California American Automobile Association has indicated it wants to lease the other half of the former Rite Aid space.

"Nothing has been signed yet," said Karen Griggi, property manager at Sausalito-based Charter Properties. "I'm still showing the property and still trying

to find a tenant for the site."

The Wells Fargo move required Planning Commission approval, which came after an Oct. 25 public hearing. No one spoke against Wells Fargo's plan, which had the support of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

Under the Noe Valley Neighborhood Commercial District rules, such approval is necessary for any new financial business moving into a space larger than 2,500 square feet. The Rite Aid building is authorized for general retail sales.

The bank's proposed changes are on display at the current branch site, and the bank has invited local residents to take a

"Right now is a great time for the community to see what we're proposing and give us feedback," said Schultz.

One local suggestion—a community bulletin board—already has gotten a thumbs up.

Money won't be the only thing green at the new branch. Its current location has been certified green, and the branch plans to continue its environmentally-friendly philosophy, Schultz said.

The branch will use all recyclable products, green-certified materials in carpets and furniture, and energy-efficient lighting, she said.

Schultz said it would be premature to make a decision about what will happen with the current branch facility until the Rite Aid deal is finalized.

According to city planner Putra, if the site is vacated, it will remain a designated financial services location for three years, and another bank or savings and loan can move into the location during that time.



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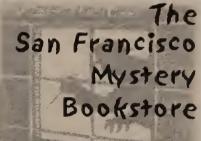
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ZEPHYR

Mom and Son Roam City on Foot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

pocket-sized cards packed neatly into a box. One side of each card describes the route for a walk and includes helpful tips, a smattering of historic tidbits, and key information about sights walkers can expect to encounter along the way. On the other side of each card, a corresponding map, illustrated with cartoon figures by artist David Needham, identifies the sights and major landmarks.

Fox went on 49 of the 50 walks with his mom, who also regularly brought her 2-year-old daughter Molly (then 8 months old) along in a baby backpack, Each walk is aimed at parents out to explore San Francisco with kids in tow. There are walks that cover popular attractions like AT&T Park, Pier 39, Julius Kahn Park in the Presidio, and the San Francisco Zoo, as well as walks through neighborhoods from North Beach to Noe Valley. Designed with kids in mind, many routes are planned with downhill segments rather than uphill climbs and include stops at kid-friendly museums, playgrounds, shops, and restaurants.

"It's for the dedicated tourist who wants to see something different," Crawford explains. "There are some tourist traps, but that's what kids like. Fisherman's Wharf, we might poo-poo it, but it's great for kids."

Considering that Crawford has lived on 24th Street near Douglass with her husband Steve Fox for the past 12 years, you might think creating the Noe Valley walk would have been the easiest for her to complete. Wrong.

Crawford admits: "Noe Valley was one of the hardest to write because I know the neighborhood so well."

The Noe Valley walk begins on 24th Street with suggestions for kid-friendly dining at neighborhood spots like Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers and the Noe



Co-authors Leslie Crawford and Sam Fox, 10—and their young assistant, 2-year-old Molly—hiked all over town in search of fun walks for their deck of cards, published in August by Chronicle Books.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

Valley Bakery. Next Crawford suggests heading to Terra Mia to paint pottery, perusing the topnotch kids' section at Cover to Cover Booksellers on Castro, and hunting for games and other fun diversions at Just for Fun. Crawford recommends taking the kids to the Noe Valley Farmers' Market on Saturdays and making a reservation at Lovejoy's Tea Room on Church Street for Wee Tea, a special spread made just for pint-sized patrons.

Other walks close to the neighborhood

include routes through Glen Canyon, Valencia Street, Bernal Heights, and Dolores Park and Mission Dolores.

One walk 'that didn't make the cut? Crawford and Fox's adventure hiking up to the summit of Twin Peaks on an especially windy day.

"I almost got hit by a bus. I hated that one," Fox recalls.

Fox's favorite walk was the one he and his mom took to Fort Funston, where he enjoyed discovering places to romp underneath the heavy canopies of trees lining parts of the trails snaking through the coastal landscape.

And even though Crawford offers myriad options for activities and stops along each walk, she doesn't necessarily rec-

ommend following her directions to a tee.

As she writes in the introduction to the deck, "If a child is more interested in inspecting a giant banana slug at Stern Grove than hiking in the woods, or climbing on the zoo's lion sculpture rather than visiting any real animals, take heart—that's the adventure."

The bottom line, Crawford advises, is simple:

"When you're with kids, be in the moment."

The City Walks with Kids series is available through Chronicle Books, www.chronicle books.com, and in Noe Valley at Cover to Cover Booksellers and Phoenix Books and Records.

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The Whimsical **Art-Filled World** Of Ernie Solon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

above a bust of Crazy Horse spins merrily in the middle of the yard.

Who created the boxer-in-the-box, the merry-go-round, and the fortune teller? The artist and carnival master is 81-yearold homeowner Ernie Solon, A retired sign painter, Solon and his wife Betty have lived on Noe Valley's southern outskirts-in the Fairmount neighborhood—for 48 years. For the last seven, Solon has been displaying his whimsical artwork to entertain the neighborhood kids and random passersby, "I wanted to get people to stop, to pause from their daily grind to give them a few moments of pause, a chuckle," Solon says. He is nearly always smiling himself, light brown eyes twinkling underneath a baseball cap that hides a thick crop of shaggy gray hair.

Solon first tried his hand at making sculptures from recycled materials in the 1970s, at the Emeryville mudflats on the shoreline of San Francisco Bay. In those days, anyone who felt so inspired could create public art on the beach from found objects like driftwood, dunnage from ships, and stray pieces of metal. Solon made a metal airplane and later a statue of Don Quixote—"a man on a horse with a stick"—also shaped out of metal.

From Helmets to Signs

Solon has always been artistic. As a kid growing up in Taos, New Mexico, he scribbled in the margins of his textbooks, drawing helmets, shields, and Civil War figures. He experimented with oil paints,

creating portraits for friends and family members. He pursued art for lun, but his ambition as a vouth was to travel the world. So he joined the Merchant Marine at 17, and from 1943 to 1946 traveled the globe, stopping in ports for three to four days at a time, to pick up and deliver cargo.

At the end of World War II, Solon moved to San Francisco. He settled in North Beach, where he hung out with the likes of Jack Kerouac at Vesuvio's, the Condor, and the Place. He took up sign painting to pay the bills, he says, teaming up with a veteran sign painter, buying into the partnership and apprenticing to learn the trade. Back then, everything was done by hand, including the giant billboards. "We'd get up on walls 50 to 60 feet in the air," Solon says.

He remained active as a merchant marine as well, shipping out to an exotic port every once in a while when he got bored, then returning home to San Francisco. From 1950 to 1952, he was stationed in Korea, this time serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Solon and Betty met and fell in love in 1958, and within a few months had tied the knot. They bought the house on Chenery a year later, and it's where they've raised their three kids, Brooks, Frederica, and Domingo, who all attended James Lick and Fairmount

"Going to Betty's Market"

When the sign business was slow, Solon launched other ventures to support his family. In 1965, he and Betty opened a little grocery at the corner of Chenery and Randall streets, two, blocks from their house, named Betty's Market. Solon handpainted beautiful signs for the shop and set up a roulette wheel that he called the "Wheel of Fortune" at the front register. Anyone who wandered in could

spin the wheel for a chance to win a prize—a candy bar or a follipop, Solon stenciled the sidewalks near his store for a block in each direction—with a trail of footprints and the words "Going to Betty's Market!"

"I added my own personality to it," he laughs.

At one point, Solon did some sign work for Playland at the Beach, the famed amusement park that stood for half a century near the Cliff House. Places like Playland, he says, and carnivals and circuses, always thrilled and inspired him. "I loved the vivid colors, the reds, the yellows." And he enjoyed making posters for the concessions. "It's gotta be gaudy to attract the eye," he says.

The work in his yard is no different. It is flashy, bright, spinning, and whirling. Often one object is piled on top of another to create a huge, 7-foot figure. And many of the sculptures have Indian motifs, reflecting Solon's Native American heritage. "It makes me happy to do this," he says.

VCR Parts and Whirlybirds

A "green" artist if there ever was one, Solon uses materials he finds on the street or at the scrapyard; old planks of wood, bricks, recycled VCR parts, even propellers (he calls them "whirlybirds"). The paint on his sculptures is the same kind he uses on his signs and billboards-industrial-strength so it can withstand the weather. His merry-go-round, which he made in 2000 and titled "Betty's Flower Fair," has survived more than one windstorm. "It was bent, but not broken," Solon says, and he patched it back into shape.

A particular sculpture can take weeks or months to make, depending on the complexity of the piece. Solon often gets ideas while riding on his stationary exercise bike in his garage work space. "I just stare and stare at something and see what I could do with it. If you stare long enough, something happens."

Solon has sold several of his pieces to art collectors over the years. Some of his latest creations are moving figures in glass coffee jars; belly dancers, a surfer, even Barry Bonds hitting a baseball. Each handmade figure has a magnet attached to its back that makes it dance back and forth in its glass case.

He says a future project might be a giant music box with a crank handle that passersby could turn to generate a little music in their day. He also is dreaming up a way to create a replica of the solar system, with sun-powered LEDs that light up when you press a button. "Press a button and see the universe!"

Solon says his path in life wasn't planned, that he's always gone with the flow of things. He tells those who wander past his funhouse: "Be like a cork in the ocean." Then he adds, "I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up."

To get a tour of his front-yard gallery, contact Ernie Solon at 282-4908.

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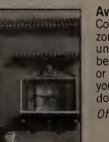
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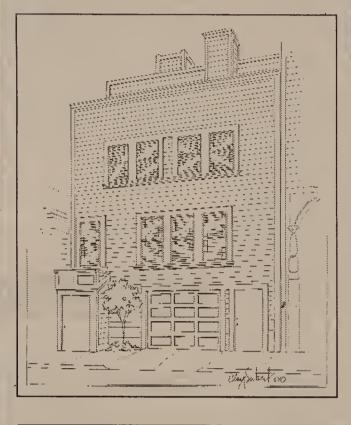
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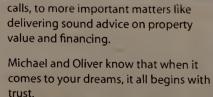
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TRUST OR LIFE

The Cost of Living in Noe

People Hold on to What They've Got

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley homebuyers purchased six single-family properties in September—the lowest tally in two years—as a searcity of homes put the brakes on sales activity in the neighborhood.

The number of houses that changed hands was down from 11 sales in August and 10 in September a year ago, according to data Zephyr Real Estate supplies monthly to the *Voice*. September of 2005 was the last time just six sales had been recorded in a single month.

However, other statistics showed that buyers still longed to live in the neighborhood. They typically paid 9 percent over the asking price and closed escrow in less than a month—both indicators of strong demand—for homes with an average price tag of nearly \$1.4 million.

"I think the numbers are once again re-

fleeting low inventory"—an ongoing condition for the last six months—said Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager. "There's nothing to sell."

Homeowners remained married to their properties, not wanting to give up their low mortgage rates or their relatively static property tax rates, he said. And some owners may have opted to delay selling because of pessimism about the overall housing market.

San Francisco has been rated one of the least volatile cities for real estate in the country, and Noe Valley "qualifies in the same way," Kostick said.

"The story for Noe Valley is, it's a protected bubble inside a protected bubble."

The most expensive single-family home sold during September was a three-bedroom, 2¹/₂-bath house, with a two-car garage and 3,100 square feet of space, in the 300 block of 27th Street, between Sanchez and Church streets. It sold in 14 days for \$2.5 million, nearly 10 percent over the \$2,295,000 asking price.

Noe Valley's condominium market remained steadfast in September.

Seven condos closed escrow during September, two fewer than in August but two more than in September of last year. Once again, buyers paid more than the asking price—by about 9 percent—and closed the deal in less than three weeks.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

rice raile, richie canes						
Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-famil	y home	es				
Sept. 2007	6	\$875,000	\$2,515,000	\$1,365,500	29	109%
Aug. 2007	11	\$850,000	\$2,700,000	\$1,692,273	35	105%
Sept. 2006	10	\$947,000	\$2,311,000	\$1,378,900	45	99%
Condominiu	ms					
Sept. 2007	7	\$659,000	\$1,625,000	\$948,857	20	109%
Aug. 2007	9	\$790,000	\$1,465,000	\$1,157,778	28	106%
Sept. 2006	5	\$615,000	\$1,225,000	\$825,600	37	102%
2- to 4-unit l	buildin	gs				
Sept. 2007	3	\$1,250,000	\$1,875,000	\$1,473,333	60	98%
Aug. 2007	6	\$950,000	\$1,989,000	\$1,348,908	58	101%
Sept. 2006	2	\$1,070,000	\$1,150,000	\$1,110,000	35	106%
5+-unit build	dings				•	
Sept. 2007	0		_	-	-	-
Aug. 2006	0		_	_	_	_
Sept. 2006	1	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	27	94%

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data.

Buyers paid a premium of more than 12 percent, pushing the price to \$1,625,000 from \$1,449,000, for the priciest condo in September. The four-

bedroom, three-bath unit is located in the 4000 block of 26th Street, between Noe and Sanchez streets.

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents October 2007	Average October 2007	Average October 2006
Studio	4	\$1,000 - \$1,650	\$1,424 / mo.	\$1,200 / mo.
1-bedroom	20	\$1,750 - \$3,000	\$2,042 / mo.	\$1,649 / mo.
2-bedroom	27	\$1,995 - \$5,750	\$3,069 / mo.	\$2,605 / mo.
3-bedroom	12 [*]	\$3,500 - \$8,500	\$4,579 / mo.	\$3,319 / mo.
4+-bedroom	5	\$4,650 – \$11,750	\$7,560 / mo.	\$6,000 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 68 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from Sept. 26 to Oct. 19, 2007.

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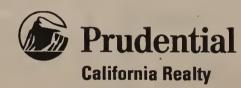
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Incidents in Noe North

By Officer Jane Warner San Francisco Patrol Special Police

The following crime summaries were L culled from reports filed at Mission Police Station. They cover incidents occurring from Sept. 17 through Oct. 15, 2007, in Noe Valley north of Cesar Chavez Street. Listed at right are a number of other incidents that happened nearby in the Castro and Mission districts. The Voice hopes to include the southern half of Noe Valley, covered by Ingleside Police Station, in future editions.

Theft: 700 block of Clipper, 9-25-07, 11:09 p.m.

A man invited another man over to eat dinner and watch a movie. When the delivery man arrived with the pizza, the man got his wallet out of the bedroom and left it on a table and went to pay for the pizza at the door. When he came back into the living room with the pizza, his new acquaintance suddenly told him he had to go and hurriedly left the apartment. Thinking this was a bit odd, the man checked his wallet and noticed that his money, over a hundred dollars, was missing from inside. The man tried to call the suspect - described as a white male, 5 feet 8 inches tall, 150 pounds, with brown hair—but there was no answer.

Vandalism: 200 block of Clipper, 9-29-07, 3:58 p.m.

Police responded to a call of kids breaking windows. When they arrived on the scene, they found two young juveniles standing next to a garage. The garage window had

been broken, and shards of glass lay about the driveway, "It was an accident," one of the young teens told the officers. "We were just pitch-hitting some rocks, and one of them broke the window." Officers confiscated the yellow baseball bat the kids were playing with and tried to contact the owners of the residence, but no one was home. The officers called the teens' parents, and after a short while, the parents arrived at the location. The teens were admonished and released to their parents. A note regarding the incident with the parents' information was left on the garage door.

Breaking Windows: 300 block of Jersey, 9-29-07, 11:47 p.m.

A resident was watching TV in his living room when he heard a cracking noise coming from another room in his house. Getting up to investigate, the man found two small holes in his front window. After calling the police, the man checked his neighbor's house to see if it had been hit as well, but there was no damage. The resident told responding officers that he thought the person responsible for the damage might have been his daughter's boyfriend, and explained that earlier in the day he and his wife had told the boyfriend to stop seeing their daughter. Officers were unable to determine what had caused the windows to break, but suspected it might have been a BB gun.

Lost Property: 24th and Sanchez, 10-13-07, 9 a.m.

A volunteer worker at the Noe Valley Harvest Festival set her bag down on the sidewalk to move some equipment. When she returned a few minutes later, the bag was gone. Inside the missing backpack were the woman's credit cards, several IDs including a California driver's license, and a set of Budget Rental truck keys. There were no known suspects.

Officer Jane Warner walks regular beats in Noe Valley and the Castro District. You can reach her by sending an e-mail to sfpatrol@earthlink.net or calling 559-9955.

Crime in the Castro

Robbery with a Gun: Eureka at 19th, 9-27-07, 7:50 p.m.

While walking home from work, a man observed an older silver Oldsmobile slowly pull up alongside him. The car suddenly stopped in the middle of the street, and a man jumped out of the passenger side pointing a .38-caliber revolver. "Give me everything!" the robber demanded as he pointed the handgun. Startled, the victim dropped the bag of groceries he was carrying and gave the armed rohher his wallet, containing about \$80. The thief took the hifold and also grahhed the victim's hriefcase, which was in his other hand. The rohber started to walk back to the car with the stolen goods, then turned and told the victim, "Pick those up," pointing to the groceries strewn on the sidewalk. The suspect, described as African-American, 20 to 25 years old, 6 feet tall, 175 pounds, wearing a colored do-rag, black sweatshirt, and blue jeans, got back into the two-door coupe, driven by another man, and sped away eastbound on 19th Street.

Robbery with a Gun: Caselli at Douglass, 9-27-07, 9:34 p.m.

A woman was walking eastbound on Caselli Avenue approaching Douglass Street when she saw three other women walking toward her. As they passed one another, one of the women in the group suddenly pushed the woman up against a parked car and attempted to take her shoulder hag. "Give us everything you have," the women told her. As the woman struggled to retain her shoulder bag, a second suspect pulled out a silver handgun and pointed it at the woman's face, "Give us everything," she repeated. Fearing for her life, the woman handed over her shoulder bag as the third suspect rifled through her pockets, taking her wallet, which held about \$100, and her checkbook. The suspects, described as African-American and in their early 20s, all ran westbound on Caselli, where they were seen getting into a double-parked white four-door sedan driven by another woman. The vehicle was last seen headed northbound toward Market Street. Taken during the robbery was the victim's shoulder bag valued at \$150 decorated with a seathelt buckle with a red stripe, a \$400 Samsung cell phone, a black Holux GPS unit, a hlack leather wallet containing miscellaneous identification, a pair of sunglasses, and a British passport. Suspect number one was described as heavyset, with braided hair, and wearing baggy clothing and a backwards baseball cap. Suspect number two had short dreadlocks, was dark-complected, and dressed in baggy jeans and a white T-shirt. There was no further description of the other two women.

Drink Tampering: 2100 block of Market at Sanchez, 10-12-07, 1 a.m.

A woman met a man inside a bar and had a few drinks with him. The woman took a couple of sips from the man's beer and after a while began to feel dizzy and her heart raced. Feeling sick, the woman left and went home. In the morning she was convinced that her drink had been spiked, and called police to report it. The suspect is described as a white male, 36 to 37 years old, 6 feet tall, 180 pounds, with red hair and blue eyes.

Aggravated Assault with a Gun: 3400 block of 19th near Valencia, 10-13-07, 1:46 a.m.

Several people were standing outside a bar on 19th Street during closing when they heard a vehicle coming down the street at a high rate of speed. Suddenly the maroon sedan stopped in front of the club, and a man got out of the passenger side of the vehicle holding a handgun. The gunman pointed the revolver at the crowd and indiscriminately started to fire. The crowd of people scattered and ran for cover as the gunman fired off five to six shots. One of the rounds hit the doorman in the left thigh, as several other rounds lodged in the metal frames of parked cars. The suspect, described as a mixed-race male in his 20s who wore a black hooded sweatshirt, skull cap, and blue jeans, got back into the car driven by another male and sped away southbound on Lexington Street. Officers responded quickly to the scene and searched the area for the suspects' vehicle, but could not find it. The doorman, who told officers he did not recognize the suspects, was taken to San Francisco General Hospital, where he was treated for a gunshot wound to his leg and released. There were no other reported injuries.

-Patrol Special Police Officer Jane Warner

The San Francisco Police Department Divides Us in Half

Noe Valley falls under the jurisdiction of two San Francisco police districts: Mission and Ingleside. Mission Police cover the northern half of the neighborhood, including 24th Street, and Ingleside Police the southern half, starting at Cesar Chavez Street.

Both districts hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Mission Police District's community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station off Balboa Park at San Jose Avenue. To speak to an officer at Mission Station, call 558-5400 or e-mail SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. The station's tip line for anonymous reporting of drug or gang activity is 392-2623. To contact Ingleside Police, call 404-4000 or e-mail SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us. The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 575-4444. For citywide online reporting, go to www.sfgov.org/site/police.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. For non-emergencies, call 553-0123.



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Noe Valley Old as the Hills

The Friends of Noe Valley is hosting its annual "Happy Birthday, Noe Valley" party to celebrate 161 years of neighborhood history and community. on Thursday, Nov. 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. A cake from the Noe Valley Bakery, wine, juices, and "cool jazz" will be served at the gathering, which will take place at the Bank of America at 24th and Castro streets.

Old photos courtesy of Noe Valley archivist Paul Kantus will be displayed, and author Bill Yenne will bring his pictorial history San Francisco's Noe Valley. Other residents will share their best memories and future hopes for our urban enclave, named after José de Jésus Noe. the Mexican administrator who acquired a 4,443-acre rancho here in 1846.

Friends president Richard May says come meet the neighbors who are volunteering to spiff up local parks, including the Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center, Noe Courts, Upper Douglass Park, and Dolores Park. For more information about the party, contact May at rambooks@pachell.net.

'4,000 Lights' Honors Slain Soldiers

"4,000 Lights," an interactive memorial and vigil honoring American soldiers killed in Iraq, will be held in Dolores Park on Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11. Created by Noe Valley artist Dianne Platner, the walk-through installation will feature rows of pink lights, each representing a man or woman who has died in the fouryear-old war (the number as of Oct. 28 was 3,840). Last February, Platner created a similar installation honoring the 3,000+ war dead at the time.

The success of the vigil, Platner says, is "entirely dependent on audience participation." During the three-hour event, people are invited to cover a light (or lights) with a piece of fabric inscribed with the name of a dead soldier. By the end of the vigil, all the lights will be dimmed. A participant in last spring's event said, "It brings tears to my eyes. It's not just a covered light that went dark. It's a life that went out."

The vigil will take place from 6 to 9 p.m., at the southwest corner of the park at Church and 20th streets. For more information, e-mail dplatner@gmail.com or visit http://3000lights.blogspot.com/.

Dems Host Election Trendspotter

Bay Area political analyst David Latterman will discuss the results of the Nov. 6 election at this month's meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, on Monday, Nov. 12. (You read that right—this meeting is on a Monday instead of the club's usual Wednesday.)

Latterman, the president of Fall Line Analytics, an opinion survey firm, also will cover statewide demographic trends and how they might affect next year's presidential election. He says he will reveal research results that have not yet been made public, including registration patterns, to show how future San Francisco and California votes might go. An expert on both political and advertising campaigns, Latterman earned his master's in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

The club invites everyone to attend the meeting, which will be held at 7:30 p.in. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street.

Fresh Art at Ministry and Luv a Java

The Golden Gate Artists are presenting their original watercolors exhibit Fresh Paint this month through Dec. 17 at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. A reception is set for Saturday, Nov. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m.

According to participant JoAnn Yates, the artists began an informal outdoor painting group 11 years ago. The members of the group met while taking art classes at City College of San Francisco and the Sharon Art Studio in Golden Gate Park. The paintings at the Ministry are the result of their weekly gatherings.

In other art news, Luv a Java, a coffeehouse at Dolores and 26th streets, is displaying the work of two local artists this month. From Nov. 1 to 30, photographer Bonnie Tomek's impressionistic photos share the spotlight with Annida Brunato's original jewelry designs. A reception for the artists will be held from

noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11. For information, go to www.lnvajava.com or call 401-6444.

Latino Film Fest Opens at the Castro

With more than 80 films from 20 countrics, the 11th international Latino Film Festival provides 16 days of moviegoing. The fest kicks off on the Day of the Dead, Friday, Nov. 2, with an opening at the Castro Theatre at 18th and Castro streets.

One highlight of this year's festival is the U.S. premiere of Retrato de diego (A Portrait of Diego), a documentary about Diego Rivera. Festival-goers can also see El Benny, a Cuban film about the life of Cuban musician Benny Moré, and the Chilean human rights film The City of Photographers.

The festival continues through Nov. 18 at the Castro Theatre and venues in Redwood City, San Jose, Larkspur, Berkeley, San Rafael, and San Bruno. For more information, including the exact film schedule, visit www.latinofilmfestival.org or call 513-5308.

St. John's Celebrates 150 Years

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, one of the early churches that helped found the Mission District, turns 150 this fall. The public is invited to celebrate this milestone on Sunday, Nov. 18.

The afternoon begins with a eucharist at 4 p.m., where the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California, the Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, will preside. The ceremony will be followed by a reception at 5:30 and dinner at 6 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by musicians Mauro Correa, Christopher Fritzsche, Wendy Allen, and Charles Rus. Dinner tickets begin at \$50 per person; a sliding scale is available. The church is located at 1661 15th Street between Mis-



St. John the Evangelist, established in 1857, has survived many threats to its existence, including the devastating Fire of 1906. A party to celebrate the church's long history will be held Nov. 18. Photo courtesy St. John's

sion and Valencia streets. Here's an interesting historical note: St. John's Parish originally embraced a large part of San Francisco, including present-day Noe Valley. St. John's also founded Holy Innocents Church on Fair Oaks, which primarily serves neighborhood residents.

For more information and tickets to the celebration, call 861-1436 or send an email to rector@saintjohnsf.org.

Award-Winning Rec Center

If all goes as planned, the renovation of Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez streets will be finished in December, with the park's projected reopening in early February. The revamped park will have a renovated children's playground, an indoor community center for children and adults, a much improved dog run, new outdoor basketball nets, and a general upgrade of both the park and the indoor basketball court.

The project has taken five years, and has required nonstop pressure and participation from groups like Upper Noe Neighbors and the newer Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center, Now, according to park volunteers, the San Francisco Parks Trust has rewarded the renovation organizers with a \$1,700 Innovator Award, honoring the park as a model of city, community, and neighborhood collaboration.

Jennifer Heyman, a member of Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center, says the award is a big help, but her group is still actively soliciting donations to pay for amenities at the park that were not covered in the city's work; such as play equipment and toys for the children's program, extra fencing and landscaping, and furniture for the rec center.

Not counting the award, the FNVRC has raised almost \$10,000 so far and will need donations of \$20,000 more by the end of the year, Heyman says. The donation program includes a "wall of fame," which donors can join when they give \$250 or more. The group also welcomes volunteers to host or help out with fundraising house parties. Find out more at www.noevalleyreccenter.com or e-mail noe_park@atorre.com.



On Veterans Day, Dolores Park will be the site of a second vigil commemorating lives lost in Iraq, organized by Noe Valley artist Dianne Platner. The first, honoring 3,000 war dead, was held on Valentine's Day. All are invited to participate. Photo by Terry Schmitt



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SHORT TAKES

NERT's Block Captain Training

The San Francisco Fire Department's NERT trainers are offering a new workshop to help city residents prepare for earthquakes and other disasters. The three-hour Personal Preparedness Workshop and Block Captain Training is free and everyone is invited.

"We'd like to get Noe Valleyans trained to help us all in case of disaster," says Mindy Kershner, head of the disaster preparedness committee within the Friends of Noe Valley. The curriculum includes risk awareness, disaster supplies, personal disaster planning, a utilities overview, and block pre-planning.

To participate in a new workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 14, or Monday, Nov. 26, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., call 970-2024 or e-mail sffdnert@sfgov.org.

The SFFD Division of Training is located at 2310 Folsom Street at 19th Street; parking is available in the yard on 19th Street. For information about the Noe Valley NERT chapter, call or e-mail Maxine Fasulis at 641-5536 or maxinefasulis@yahoo.com.

A Way to Quit Smoking

"Look at it as a journey.... The more carefully you plan, the less likely you are to be sidetracked by some unexpected roadblock." That piece of advice will be among the tips offered by therapist Lori Feldman at a free information hour on the QuitSmart Stop Smoking Program, on Thursday, Nov. 15. The talk and discussion will be held at Feldman's Noe Valley office at 3 p.m., and will coincide with

the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout Day. Call Feldman at 285-9770 for location and registration.

Guinness on Tap at Book Event

Noe Valley author Bill Yenne will read from and sign his latest book, *Guinness:* The 250-Year Quest for the Perfect Pint, at the Valley Tavern on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The book is a behind-the-scenes look at the world-famous brew, from its humble origins in Dublin, Ireland, to its widespread consumption across continents.

Yenne says he will have lots of books available at the event, and the tavern will offer drink specials in addition to (of course) Guinness on tap. The Valley Tavern is located at 4054 24th Street near Noe. For more information, call 285-0674.

Dirt Shoveled at Noe Courts

The Noe Courts tot lot renovation is well under way—workers began bull-dozing the old sandbox and carving out a new children's play area in early October. In addition to new swings and play structures and a resilient rubber surface, the kids' corner of the park, located at Douglass and 24th streets, will have a new fence separating it from the grassy lawn; a secure gate and disabled ramp at the entrance; plus a sand lot and picnic area.

According to Laura Norman of the Friends of Noe Courts Playground, the contractor is hoping to finish by Thanksgiving. Meanwhile, her organization is working to raise \$10,000 to complete the park's perimeter landscaping.

Norman says generous neighbors are also paying for picnic tables and benches. If you'd like to help the group fund the finishing touches, send a check to the San Francisco Parks Trust, 501 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, Attn: Jennifer Stark-Hernandez. Include a note



Construction has started at Noe Courts Park to build an enclosed "tot lot" at the corner of 24th and Douglass streets.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

indicating that your donation is for Noe Courts. The Parks Trust To learn more about donating or the renovation, e-mail Norman at noecourts@gmail.com.

Teen Art Contest

If you're between the ages of 13 and 18, you could win \$100 in an art contest at the San Francisco Public Library. To participate, submit a design for a color 4-1/4-by-6-inch postcard advertising the Library's 2008 Teen Summer Read Program. The design should include the words "San Francisco Public Library" and "Teen Summer Read." Original drawings, photos, and computer designs will be accepted. For computer designs, an EPS file high-resolution PDF is preferred, and colors must be CMYK.

To submit your artwork, drop off originals to any local library branch, or mail them to the Office of Children and Youth Services, San Francisco Public Library,

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. The entry deadline is Friday, Dec. 14. For additional information, call Jennifer Collins at 557-4268 or e-mail *jennifercollins@sfpl.org*.

Holiday Crafts at St. Luke's

Celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa at the St. Luke's Hospital holiday crafts bazaar. Hospital volunteers have created holiday decorations as well as hand-knit scarves, collectible containers filled with candy, cards, and more. The sale happens Wednesday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m in the Monteagle Medical Office Building lobby, 1580 Valencia Street at Duncan Street. Proceeds from the sale benefit St. Luke's programs. To find out more, call St. Luke's Volunteer Services at 641-6490.

This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Briant and Sally Smith.



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Russian Hill

\$7,900,000

Historic Gothic Tudor, panoramic views, architecturally stunning, 6BR/ 6.5BA, library, office, media room, and garden.



MARINA

\$4,500,000

Grand views of the Palace of Fine Arts & lagoon. 3BR/3.5BA, LR w/frplc, curved staircase, chef's kit, brkfst rm, fam rm, lg deck, Huge grdn, 3-car gar, bonus room and bath down.



SHERWOOD FOREST

\$3,499,000

Mediterranean residence 4BR/3.5BA. City & ocean views. LR with woodburning fireplace. Antique & rare beams from 14th century Spanish monastery.



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\$3,395,000

2 XQZT Spanish Mediterranean Flats, original architectural detail, Each flat with 3BR/2BA. decks and garden. Plus bonus studio apt. 3-car gar. Seismically upgraded. Delivered vacant.

Chris Panou 415-351-4691



JORDAN PARK

\$2,995,000

Renovated family house. LR w/frplc, FDR, eat-in kit, fam rm, deck, grdn, 2nd story has 4BR+ofc/3BA, playroom, storage, 1/2 BA down, 1-car garage.



NOE VALLEY

\$1,895,000

4BR/2.5BA SFH w/ofc, + 2BR cottage. Ttlly remdled Vict 12' ceilings, FDR, gas range, granite kit, period dtls, remdld BAs, Nr 24th St. shops/restaurants. Don Woolhouse 415-971-7766



NOE VALLEY

\$1,849,000

3BR/3BA Victorian with 1-car garage. Exquisite remodel throughout. Designer kitchen & baths. Landscaped yard with hot tub. www.815Douglass.com.

Jito Garcia 415-606-9090



COLE VALLEY

\$1,039,000

Edwardian lower condo in 2-U bldg, 2BR/1.5BA/2PKG. LR, parlor, FDR, French drs to dk, remod kit, updated BA's, Indry rm, 2-car tandem pkg! Period details, 2 frplcs, hdwd flrs.



GOLDEN GATE HTS

\$899,000

2BR/1.5BA on main living level. Newly refinished hrdwd flrs & int. paint, frml din & liv rm combination, ocean views. "Chef's" granite kit. Lower 3rd BR or hm office, 1-car pkg.



WESTERN ADDITION

\$799,000

Lovely condo. Period details, 2 levels, 2BR/den/2.5BA, living room, formal dining room, wood-burning fireplace, garden, parking. Must See!



WESTERN ADDITION

\$629,000

Sunny Victorian full-flr condo. Gorgeous detail. Rmodeled kitchen. 2BR/ 2BA, private deck. Shared grden, patio. Pkg. Laundry. 2-unit bldg near NOPA, Fillmore.



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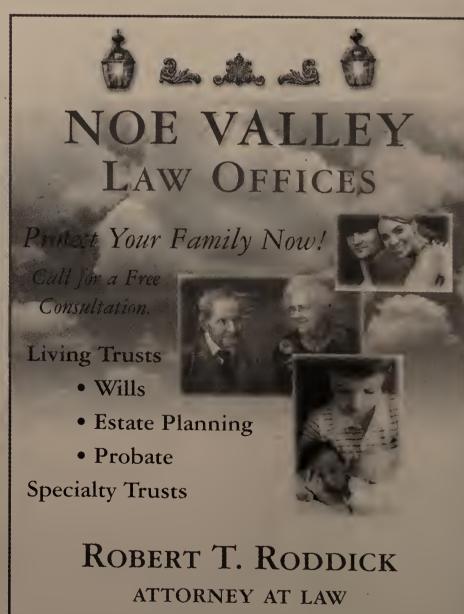
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inner sunset

92 judah street san francisco ca 94122 / 415 731 6175 lunch: monday to friday 11:30 - 2:00 dinner: nightly 5:30





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NOVEMBER 2007

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: "Roll, baby, roll" at an ongoing Thursday STROLLER WALK. Meet at 11 am at Holey Bagel, 3872 24th. www.noestrolls.com

Nov. 1-30: OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Monday through Saturday, 7 to 8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez.

Nov. 1-30: Takeshi Murata's new VIDEO. Escape Spirit VideoSlime, is on display at Ratio 3 Gallery. Wed.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm. 1447 Stevenson. 821-3371; www.ratio3.

Nov. 1-30: Noe Valley SENJOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60. weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

Nov. 1-30: Ruby's Clay Studio exhibits CERAMICS by Steve de Grasse and photos by Angelo Di Pietrantonio. Opens Nov. 4, 2-6pm. 552A Noe. 861-3440.

Nov. 1-Dec. 1: CITY ART Cooperative Gallery displays work by Antonio Rivera, Kevin Piyatilake, and Susanne Jette Khawand. Reception Nov. 2, 7-10 pm; Wed.-Sun., noon-9 pm. 828 Valencia. 970-9900; www.cityartgallery.org.

Nov. 1-Dec.17: "Fresh Paint," an exhibit of original WATERCOLORS, holds an artists' reception on Nov. 10, 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-

Nov. 1-Dec. 31: The "Da Vinci" SHOW. with 150 reproductions of machines made by Leonardo, continues at the Metreon. 101 4th. www.davincithegenius.com.

Nov. 2-Dec. 21: OLD FIRST CHURCH begins its winter concert series, including the Del Sol String Quartet on Nov. 30. 8 pm. 1751 Sacramento, 474-1608.

Nov. 3: Czech performance artist IVA BITTOVÁ, of Zelary fame, sings and plays violin. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

Nov. 3: St. Paul's presents "A Night with the Stars," to BENEFIT the church preservation fund. Silent auction, 6 pm; dinner, 7:45; live auction, 8:45; dancing, 9:15 pm. Info: 648-7538. www.stpaulsf.org.

Nov. 3-4 & 6-17: The International LATINO Film Festival showing at Mission Cultural Center shows films from Spain and Latin America, 2868 Mission, 643-2776. www.latinofilmfestival.org.

Nov. 2-4: The SF HARVEST FESTIVAL features hundreds of craftspeople. Fri. & Sat., 10 am-7 pm; Sun., 10 am-5 pm. Concourse Exhibition Hall, 635 8th, 447-3205; www.harvestfestival.com.

Nov. 2-4: Shiloh McCloud exhibits visionary ARTWORK at A Woman's Eye Gallery. Noon-5 pm. 678 Portola. 731-6470, www.awegallery.com.

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: CHESS CLUB at the Excelsior Library welcomes all skill levels, ages 6 and up. 3:30-5:30 pm. 4400 Mission. 355-286B.

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Friday BINGO at St. Paul's begins at 7 pm (doors open 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

Nov. 3: Tom Huber and Mississippi Mike (8:30 am) and Failure to Disperse (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MAR-KET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www. noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Nov. 3: Vocalist and solo violinist Eva Bittová performs a CONCERT at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www. noevalleymusicseries.com.

Nov. 3 & 4: Noe Valley artist Royce Vaughn exhibits "Afrigrams" in the annual Wesleyan ART SHOW at Jones United Methodist Church, 1975 Post, 921-7653.

Nov. 4: Rocket DOG RESCUE shows off dogs who need homes, at Zephyr Real Estate. Noon-4 pm. 4040 24th. 642-4786. Nov. 4: Huxley Beagle's "Trial by Juri" TREASURE HUNT around Juri Commons begins at 1 pm. For rules, visit www. eagerbeagle.com/hunt.

Nov. 4: Noe Valley writer and historian ESTELLE FREEDMAN reads from The Essential Feminist Reader. Refreshments. 3 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, 282-9246.

Nov. 4: The ASIAN ART Museum's Fall Family Festival gives kids the chance to dress up in Asian costumes and make their own hanbok (Korean dress), jewelry, or samurai breastplate, 11 am-4 pm, 200 Larkin, 581-3500; www.asianart.org.

Nov. 5: Vocalist Silvia Nakkach, cellist Michael Knapp, and musician/activist Julie Dillon are guests of the ODD MON-DAYS series. 7 pm, preceded by dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (rsvp *jlsender @webtv.net*). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

Nov. 5-27: Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. & Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, 773-8185 or 650-756-6857

Nov. 5-28: SF Library's BOOKMOBILE parks in Noe Valle. Mon. & Wed., 10:30 am-1 pm, 665 Elizabeth, 557-4353.

Nov. 6: ELECTION DAY. Vote for mayor, 7 am to 8 pm. 554-4411.

Nov. 6: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group moderated by Dr. Betty Carmack. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama.

Nov. 6, 13, 20 & 27: "Tot/Parent Spanish," a LANGO, Foreign Language for Kids class, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www. langokids.com.

Nov. 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Noe Valley Library sponsors LAPSITS for babies and toddlers at 10:15 am, and preschool STORY TIME at 11 am. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez. 647-8393; www.sfpl.org.

Nov. 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds an introduction to MEDITATION on Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

Nov. 7: Algerian-born cartoonist Khalil Bendib speaks about political CARTOON-ING post-9/11. 1 pm. City College, 50 Phelan. 239-3580.

Nov. 7: Forbeadin' offers a JEWELRYmaking class, "Basic Knotting." 7-9 pm. 1195 Church, 641-1414.

Nov. 7 & 8: A CRAFTS BAZAAR at St. Luke's benefits hospital programs. 9-4 pm. 1580 Valencia, 641-6490

Nov. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Danielle is the STORYTELLER at Cover to Cover's Wednesday story hour, 3-4 pm, 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

Nov. 7-25: Brava Theater Center presents the world premiere of Stardust and Empty Wagons: Stories from the KATRINA DIASPORA. "N'Awlins-style" party Nov. 10, 8 pm; Wed.-Sat., B pm; Sun., 3 pm. 2789 24th. 647-2822; www.brava.org.

Nov. 8: University of San Francisco presents author ISABEL ALLENDE in a free interview and book signing, 5:45 pm. 2130 Fulton, 422-6828.

Nov. 8: Friends of Noe Valley hosts a BIRTHDAY PARTY for Noe Valley, with historical memorabilia, wine, and jazz. 7-8:30 pm. Bank of America, 24th & Castro 602-4445; rambooks@pacbell.net.

Nov. 8-Dec. 8: Merle Kessler and Joshua Brody perform Slouching Towards DISNEYLAND, a history of the world "from the Big Bang to the bleating blogs." 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. B26-5750; www.themarsh.org.

Nov. 9: James Lick holds an OPEN HOUSE for prospective students and their families. 5:30-6:30 pm. The Fall Showcase of Student Music & Dance begins at 6:30 pm. 1220 Noe. 695-5675.

Nov. 9: Under One Roof's annual FUND-RAISER, "SparkleSF," features a champagne tasting, live and silent auctions, and a performance by Kimberly Locke from American Idol. 6:30-10 pm. St. Regis Hotel, 125 3rd 503-2300; www. underoneroof.org.

Nov. 9: "Stand-up Iragedian" Chaim Bertman discusses his work at the Ecstatic Monkey READING SERIES at Modern Times Bookstore. 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia. 282-9246; www.mtbs.com.

Nov. 9-11: The GREEN FESTIVAL features 200 speakers and 400 businesses offering workshops, films, and classes. Fri. & Sat., 10 am-8 pm; Sun., 11 am-6 pm. San Francisco Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 8th. www.greenfestivals.org.

Nov. 10: The Noe Valley Farmers' Market hosts MUSIC by Jude (8:30 am) and Swing Serenade (10:30 am). 24th & Vicksburg, 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Nov. 10: Learn mulching and pest control at a WORKSHOP on preparing your garden for winter. 10 am-1 pm. Garden for the Environment, 7th Avenue & Lawton. Call 731-5627 to preregister.

Nov. 10: The November end-of-the-season PLANT SALE at Strybing Arboretum runs from 10 am to 1 pm. Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue & Lincoln. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

Nov. 10: Bring recycled prints, buttons, scissors, and flowers to a CARDMAKING workshop at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, 1-3 pm, 643-2776.

Nov. 10: BILL YENNE signs his new book, Guinness: The 250-Year Quest for the Perfect Pint, at the Valley Tavern. 3:30-5:30 pm. 4054 24th. 285-0674; www.dublinerbars.com.

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CALENDAR

Nov. 10: Mary Luckhardt offers ENG-LISH COUNTRY DANCE lessons with live music, sponsored by the Bay Area Country Dance Society. 7:30-10:30 pm. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez. 821-2654; www.bacds.org.

Nov. 10: BRUCE BARTHOL, former music director of the SF Mime Troupe and a bass player with Country Joe and the Fish, performs at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Nov. 11: Luv a Java hosts a RECEPTION for photographer Bonnie Tomek and jewelry designer Annida Brunato, whose works are on display through November. Noon-4 pm. 1300 Dolores. 401-6444; www.luvajava.com.

Nov. 11: Nicole Ramirez-Monroe, youth program coordinator at the SF LGBT Center, talks at the PFLAG support group. 2-4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 921–8850; www.pflagst.org.

Nov. 11: The Afiara String Quartet from Canada performs music by Brahms, Mozart, and Shastakovich at Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. www.nvcm.org.

Nov. 11: "4,000 Lights," a VETERANS DAY VIGIL to honor the American men and women who have died in Iraq, begins at 6 pm in Dolores Park. 269–6462; www.4000lights.blogspot.com.

Nov. 11: Yossi Fine and Dub Gabriel perform IMPROVISATIONAL MUSIC at the Elbo Room. 9 pm-2 am. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

Nov. 12: POLITICAL pollster David Latterman discusses the November election results and demographics at the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 641-5838.

Nov. 13 & 14: Aileen Barr teaches an ADULT MOSAIC class, using Italian glass tiles. 6-8 pm. Terra Mia, 1314 Castro. 642-9911.

Nov. 14: Valerie Miner discusses WRIT-ING and reads from her new book, *After Eden.* 6:30 pm. Duboce Park Café, 2 Sanchez. 621-1108; *www.valerieminer.com.*

Nov. 14 & 26: NERT holds earthquake preparedness and block captain WORK-SHOPS for neighborhood residents. 6:30-9:30 pm. 2310 Folsom at 19th. Sign up 970-2024; sffdnert@sfgov.org.

Nov. 15: OuitSmart Smoking Cessation holds a free information hour on the American Cancer Society's Great American SMOKEOUT. 3 pm. Call 285-9770 for 24th Street location.

Nov. 15: The Bird & Beckett Political BOOK DISCUSSION group features *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. 7 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733

Nov. 15-Dec. 16: Staircase, described as "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? but gay," plays at Theatre Rhinoceros. Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm; Nov. 18, 7 pm. 2926 16th. 861-5079; www.TheRhino.org.

Nov. 16: Rozanoff Art Gallery hosts an "AFFORDABLE ART" show featuring a variety of media. Wine reception for the artists, 6-9 pm. 355 29th. 917-251-3179 www.rozanoffart.com.

Nov. 17: Julie Rosenthal (8:30 am) and They Call Me Lucky (10:30 am) perform at the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www. noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Nov. 17: The Garden-for the Environment shares the secrets of growing GARLIC. 10 am-noon. 7th Ave. & Lawton. Call 731-5627 to preregister.

Nov. 17: 78-year-old Annemarie Yellin gives a dramatic presentation about her five years in a convent during WWII, at the Older Women's League meeting. 10 amnoon. 870 Market, Room 1185. 989-4422; www.owlsf.org.

Nov. 17: SANTA will be posing for photos with cats from 11 am to noon, and with dogs and other animals from noon to 4 pm at the SPCA. 243 Alabama. 522-3569

Nov. 17-22: St. Anthony Foundation is accepting CURBSIDE DONATIONS of clothing, housewares, and items for the Food Pantry Weekdays, 8:45 am-6 pm, weekends, 9 am-3 pm. 121 Golden Gate. 592-2738; www.stanthonysf.org.

Nov. 18: The SIPPY CUPS performs "Fall from Space," a rock & roll circus for families, 1 & 4 pm. Bimbo's 365 Club, 1025 Columbus, 335-4422, www.thesippycups.com.

Nov. 18: The SF Bicycle Coalition sponsors a NIGHT RIDE in Aquatic Park. 6 pm. Meet at the Panhandle statue, Fell & Baker. Bring snacks and lights. 431-bike; robin@biteback.com.

Nov. 18: ST. JOHN the Evangelist, the Episcopal church at 15th and Valencia, holds its 150th birthday celebration. Eucharist, 4 pm; dinner and reception, 5:30 pm. 1661 15th. Tickets, call 861-1436; rector@saintjohnsf.org.

Nov. 19: A one-night-only CABARET with the casts of *The Color Purple* and *Reduced Shakespeare* benefits the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation. 7:30 pm. Marines Memorial Theater, 609 Sutter. 273-1620: www.helpisontheway.org.

Nov. 20: Historian John Ralston pays tribute to seven FAMOUS San Franciscans, at the SF History Association. 7 pm. Mission School Auditorium, 16th & Church. www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

Nov. 23: "American Roots Music Feast" TURKEY TROT 2007 features Rancho Deluxe, Kerno Sabe, Jeffrey Halford & the Healers, and Wayward Sway. 8 pm. Café du Nord, 2170 Market. 861-5016.

Nov. 23-Dec. 9: ODC/Dance performs *The Velveteen Rabbit*, with narration by Geoff Hoyle and music by Benjamin Britten. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard. For schedule: 978-2787; www.odcdance.org.

Nov. 24: MUSIC at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market includes shows by Dennis Campagna & Friends (8:30 am) and As It Goes (10:30 am). 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Nov. 24-25 and Dec. 1-2: Local artists Amy Faust and Sarah Hassler exhibit their work with 148 others at the Celebration of Craftswomen HOLIDAY FAIR at Ft. Mason. 10 am-5 pm. 731-5539, www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org.

Nov. 28: BETH LISICK and Charlie Anders discuss their writing at Michelle Tea's Radar Salon. 7-8:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th. 355-5616.

Nov. 28-Dec. 1: SF Camerawork's BEN-EFIT AUCTION includes work by Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Edward Steichen, and William Wegman. Reception Nov. 28, 6 pm; exhibition Nov. 29 & 30, noon-6 pm; auction Dec. 1, 1 pm. 657 Mission. 512-2020; www.sfcamerawork.org.

Nov. 29: Peekabootique's PARENTS PARTY Night offers wine, juice, and goldfish crackers. Last Thursday of the month. 5:30-7:30 pm. 1306 Castro. 641-6192.

Nov. 29: 826 Valencia hosts a town hall meeting about the WRITERS' ROOM project at James Lick Middle School. 6 pm. 1220 Noe. *www.826valencia.org.*

Nov. 29: UPPER NOE Neighbors meet at the 30th Street Senior Center at 7:30 pm. 225 30th. 285-0473.

Dec. 1: Lapland arts and a *fiskdammen* (fish pond) are featured at this year's SWEDISH Christmas Fair at St. Mary's Cathedral. 9 am-4 pm. 1111 Gough. 454-1518; www.sweasanfrancisco.org.

Dec. 1: Artists take to the streets at Southern Exposure and Intersection for the Arts, for "PUBLIC ART/Urban Interventions Day" Valencia between 14th & 16th. 863-2141; www.soex.org.

Dec. 1: GUITARISTS Tom Huber and Mississippi Mike (8:30 am) and Failure to Disperse (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Dec. 1: HOLIDAY CRAFTS day at the Randall Museum includes candles, soap, and candy houses. 10 am-3 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

Dec. 1: CRAFTICON 2.0 displays the creative wares of local artisans, with hourly skill-shares and music by Phil & Mike of Top Critters. Noon-7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246; www.mtbs.com.

Dec. 1: The ROVA Saxophone Ouartet performs at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusic-series.com.

Dec. 2: Noe Valley Pet Co. hosts SANTA PAWS, a photo shoot for pets and their families to benefit Rocket Dog Rescue. 11 am-4 pm. 1451 Church at Cesar Chavez. 282-7385.

Deadlines Deadlines

The next Noe Valley Voice is our December/January issue. It should be out on Dec. 4, and on the streets for two months. Try to send your calendar items by Nov. 15, to calendar@noevalleyvolce.com. Please put the date of your event near the top of the e-mail. Our address is Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take priority, but we try to squeeze in as many other Items as possible.

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By Lorraine Sanders

C tore Trek is a regular feature of the Voice, profiling new shops and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a contemporary furniture store on Church Street and a coffeehouse on 24th Street—each brimming with local angles.

BERNIE'S CAFÉ 3966 24th Street at Noe Street 415-642-1192

If you hadn't noticed the disappearance of the 24th Street Tully's Coffee, you're

"About 10 percent of the people who come in think it's still Tully's, until they taste the coffee," chuckles Bernie Melvin, owner of Bernie's Café, which replaced Tully's and reopened in the same space in. mid-September, after Melvin spruced up the interiors with fresh paint, black-andwhite photographs of San Francisco landmarks, and a children's corner complete with a chalkboard, kids' books, and an activity table with matching chairs.

Not that Melvin has any gripes with Tully's. In fact, the 34-year-old worked for the coffee company for nine years, first behind the counter and, most recently, as a manager and performance coach who traveled around the country training employees and opening new locations.

But when Tully's decided not to renew its lease when it was up earlier this year, Melvin secured her former employer's blessing and leased the space herself. While the café is technically Melvin's first solo venture, she supervised the opening of about 40 Tully's locations during her time with that company. She also worked for Spinelli Coffee, the business that occupied the same location (next to Bell Market) before Tully's bought it in 1998. In fact, Melvin credits Spinelli Coffee's former owner Arnold Spinelli with introducing her to the beauty of coffee.

"He instilled that passion for coffee in me, and I always held onto that," Melvin

Those with fond memories of Spinelli Coffee will be pleased to learn that Bernie's Café exclusively serves La Coppa coffee, Mr. Spinelli's current coffee company and the name of his Mill Valley coffee shop. The coffee is roasted and delivered fresh every week.

Bernie's offers patrons free wireless Internet access and a beverage menu that includes drip coffee, espresso drinks, frozen blended coffee drinks with a choice of flavoring, Odwalla juice, Izze soda, and tea from Republic of Tea, among others. San Francisco's Raison d'Etre-Bakery supplies pastries, cookies, muffins, cakes, and other edible goodies.

Beans for sale at Bernie's include the House Blend, La Donna, Bernie's Blend, French Roast, Decaf, and Espresso Especiale (\$11.95 to \$12.95 pcr pound). Bernie's donates \$1 from the sale of every pound of La Donna coffee beans to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund. The blend is named after Arnold Spinelli's wife, Donna.



The crew at Bernie Melvin's coffee shop includes (left to right) Ohla Coleman, Debbie Hanifin, and Bernie herself.

Melvin's connections to Noe Valley don't stop with her cafe or her former employers. Although she has lived in Pacifica for the past decade, Melvin grew up near the corner of 22nd and Douglass streets, attended James Lick Middle School, and still counts nine cousins, an uncle, and an aunt who currently live in the neighborhood. Melvin's mother, Debbie Hanifin, who once worked as a waitress at Noe Valley Pizza and was featured in the November 1992 Voice, and brother, Dennis Melvin, also work in the café.

At the end of the day, it's the close-knit community that brings Melvin the most

"I'm working from open to close, but my life is happier than ever, and I love the community sense of being here and knowing people's drinks, their children's names, their dogs' names. I really didn't realize how much I missed that," Melvin says.

Bernie's is open daily from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ARTESANÍAS 1747 Church Street at Day Street 415-922-2783

www.artesanias-sf.com

It's not every day that one walks into a store as a customer and winds up becoming co-owner of the business. But that's what happened to Courtney Jones, who owns and operates, with business partner Craig Kohler, the recently opened Noe Valley outpost of Artesanías.

"I thought, if I were to go into business, this is the kind of customer experience I'd want to have," Jones says of her first encounter with Kohler, who opened the original Artesanías in Cow Hollow four vears ago.

Jones and Kohler struck up a friendship, and when Kohler decided to expand Artesanías, Jones chose to leave her position as an investment manager for AAA to sign on as co-owner of the furniture store, which specializes in custom sofas.

"I've been doing everything for so long, so it's really nice that there are other people involved now," says Kohler, who lives with his wife, Carla, and 4-monthold daughter, Isabelle, in Cow Hollow.

After renovations to the interior and exterior of the store. Jones and Kohler opened their doors on Oct. 13, in the longvacant Church Street space formerly occupied by the Mikeytom grocery store. Jones' brother Harrison Parker Jr., a designer and art director, created the graphics of furniture pieces that appear on the store's freshly painted rust-colored exterior. Inside the 2,500-square-foot showroom — with skylights overhead — furnishings from L-shaped sofas to sleek espresso-hued dining tables pepper the space, while the stark white walls are hung with dramatic mirrors, works on canvas, and decorative home accents.

Artesanías, which means craftsmanship in Spanish, sells made-to-order sofas, sectionals, chairs, ottomans, and headboards constructed by Los Angeles manufacturer Nathan Anthony, as well as furnishings and decorative objects by Elite Design. Customers can choose dimensions, fabrics, and other details to suit



Courtney Jones is co-owner of Artesanias, a furniture store now occupying the corner of Church and Day streets.

Photos by Pomelo Gerord

their taste. Sofa prices start at \$1,199.

Kohler says he does not tack on a standard retail markup and aims to keep his prices about 40 percent lower than what one would find at Pottery Barn. And while some of the furniture for sale at Artesanías shares the Pottery Barn aesthetic, the offerings at the Noe Valley location run the gamut from traditional to antique-inspired to sleek and modern.

"It's eclectic," Jones says of the store's style. "But you might see it change as we get to know our customers and what they want. We think that's what will make it special for the neighborhood."

In addition to selling furniture, Kohler and Jones assist customers with space planning, and offer referrals for full-service interior designers. Kohler will be in the store several days a week, but the most familiar face in the Noe Valley location will be Jones, who lives on Duncan Street in Diamond Heights with her husband, Russell; 4-year-old daughter, Emily; and 18-month-old daughter, Kitt.

Artesanías is open 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.



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More of a guilty pleasure watching these ones:

I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry – for the absurd notion of Adam Sandler and Kevin James as a bickering, fraudulent couple. Shrek the Third & Spider Man 3 -these sequels share something: both were not as good as the ones before, and both are still fun. Colma: the Musical - a coming of age tale set nearby in Colma, where graveyards occupy most of the land, and teenagers break into musical numbers at the merest hint of impending adulthood.

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Doug's Private Highlight Reel

n August 1993, my wife and daughter and I pulled up roots in Los Angeles and moved to San Francisco. After loading into our 100-yearold home in Noe Valley, the first thing I did was look for a local pickup basketball game. Anyone who is a devoted baller like I am will understand that finding a new local game was more important to me than learning where the grocery store was.

When I walked onto the asphalt outdoor courts at James Lick Middle School on the first Sunday after our move, I was joining a work-in-progress, a game that had been a fixture on weekends since the late '70s. The guys played on both Saturdays and Sundays, and started early—if you weren't there by 7:30

a.m., you'd miss the first game. I sat down on the wooden bench.

watched a few minutes, and decided I was probably good enough to play.

"Where you from?" someone asked. "L.A.," I said, not realizing yet what a bad answer that was.

Then, my very first shot in my very first game got swatted hard left by a gust of wind and missed everything the rim, the net, the basket, the pole and rolled all the way down to the school building, bounced through the gate, and continued down 25th Street, where it lodged under a car.

I had to chase the ball down, then run back with it, red-faced. "Don't shoot no jumpers into the wind," someone said. "This ain't L.A."

Sunday was less intense than Saturday. It took me a while to work up to playing on Saturday, where the players were younger, the games were tougher, the trash-talking more constant, and dis-



Doug Konecky (kneeling, far left) and some of the guys he's played basketball with at James Lick School and in "Doug's Private Highlight Reel."

agreements on the court occasionally threatened to lead to altercations off the court. But we were all younger then.

Actually, I wasn't. I was 48 years old in 1993, and most of the other players were in their 20s. I could still move

pretty well and had the advantage that nobody knew my

game yet, so I could fool 'em with a crossover dribble and finish with my left hand. It became obvious very quickly, though, that if I were to compete with these guys I would have to outrun them.

That's when my bicycle regimen began, which I have kept up to this day. I hate it like liver. The only good thing about riding up Sanchez is that Noe is worse. But while it has been deflating to watch my basketball skills deteriorate year after year, one after the otherpasses bounce off my fingers, I dribble the ball off my foot, I can barely outjump a cranberry scone—the one thing that has kept me on the court is that I am in better aerobic shape than most of the other guys. I'm still short and pathetic, but I don't get tired.

For more than a decade, faces changed but the core remained. There

was a rotating mix of perhaps 25 guys, some who showed up as religiously as if they were going to church, and some who might come one week out of four. These were blue-collar guys: Muni drivers, house painters; truck drivers, night watchmen—plus a few lawyers and teachers, a manager of a cheese steak shop, and one entertainment writer for America On Line.

That was me. Sometimes I'd try to talk about movies I'd just reviewed, but I was always the only guy who had seen Sideways. Nobody missed Zodiac Killer, though, or anything with Lethal in the title.

ut all of this is in the past. Now, the deeply gouged asphalt courts at James Lick, where you could hear the foghorns blow a true B-flat when the wind rushed in from the north, have turned quiet on weekend mornings. After close to 30 years, our basketball game appears to have fluttered, sputtered, and died.

Why? When people first started playing ball, most lived in the neighborhood, or Eureka Valley, the Haight, or the Western Addition. Several of the black guys had gone to McAteer High

School, and quite a few of the Irish and Filipino guys had gone to elementary school at St. Philip's. A few were already minor playground legends in the Mission or in the Panhandle, but since we were all average-sized people, the smallest maybe 5'6" and the tallest 6'3", nobody dominated every week. Everyone got a chance to be the hero once in a while. Even me.

Once, in a tie game, I stole a pass and flew up the court on a fast break, with only Greek George between me and the basket. Just as I was ready to spring to shoot, my back foot caught in the uneven asphalt, which pushed my weight to my front foot. To keep from falling over, I had to hesitate and double-clutch before I kissed the ball off the metal half-moon backboard and into the basket to win the game. Greek George shook his head disbelievingly and said, "You'd better put that shot into Doug's private highlight reel."

I did. I can still see that sweet move in my mind's eye, and it has never lost an ounce of sugar.

But Greek George is gone. He left with quite a few of the guys, like

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

This fall, discover more love! Join us at St. John's.

By Doug Konecky

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Doug's Private Highlight Reel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

Jump-Shot Joe, Left-Hand Reb, Bicycle Ike, Big Lou, Tall T and his brother Quick Nick, Tommy the Carpenter, and both Eddies (Eddie Comcast and Eddie Jazz), after a few maybe-yes, maybe-no incidents.

I say maybe-yes, maybe-no because when black guys and white guys play ball together, there can be racial undertones. But that doesn't make every incident a racial one. Maybe yes. Maybe no.

It's true that the young guys picked on the old guys, but that was natural. And Scoop used to accuse me of fouling black guys harder than I fouled white guys, which was pretty funny since I fouled everyone all the time. It was the only way I could stop them.

It was just ball. Our games were loud and confrontational and some guys got sick of it. But I loved it. The work-inprogress worked, and we all made progress. We were a piece of each other's puzzle for a few hours each week, and most of us couldn't live without one another. Everyone played to win. Guys got hot and said stuff, but it wasn't personal.

Cultural differences were only a small part, though. People got older, and started to have kids, and it was becoming impossible to buy a home or rent a larger apartment in the area. Gary, The Counselor, Scoop, and Maurice moved to the East Bay; Robby to Pacifica; Terrence to Marin; Evan to Daly City. Big Muh Melvin had a few struggles and disappeared entirely, and Tico

moved all the way out to Antioch.

For a time, most guys kept coming in on weekends to play, but not every week. LaRon was working at least two jobs and never had time to play anymore. Ryan and Vance and Vegas Pete got hurt. New Mike had to give up his car. S.J. started bringing his kids, but he couldn't do that every week. Soon, Sunday disappeared entirely, and we were down to playing only on Saturday. Then there was the Christmas tree fiasco.

Melvin and Ramon believed He Who Yells Longest and Loudest Wins. They were big men, and neither had been wrong a day in his life. If those two started yipping at each other, neither would back down. As the noise got louder and louder, windows along 25th and Clipper streets would pop open.

Every holiday season, the school rented our basketball courts to Delancey Street to sell Christmas trees, so the school could take in some badly needed cash. Delancey Street workers would pound huge stakes into the asphalt to hold their tents. So we couldn't use our courts from November to New Year's. Afterwards, the asphalt was cracked badly, and the school never had the money to fix it. The rainy season began, the condition of the courts deteriorated further, and the painted white lines became obliterated.

One January we brought in white paint and concrete patch. We fixed the court and repainted the lines. The next week we arrived to be faced by school officials demanding to know who had worked on their court. When we told

them we had repaired the court ourselves at no cost to them, we expected they'd thank us. Instead, they told us we had broken the rules, and if we ever did anything like that again, we would be barred from using the playground.

It rubbed everybody wrong. "This kind of thing, it's why we moved," some of the East Bay guys said. "What if one of the school kids broke an ankle?"

Also, the neighbors complained all the time. They said it was because we parked on the sidewalk, but that wasn't it. What it was really about was volume. The neighborhood was sleepy. Big Muh Melvin and Ramon el Grande defied nap time.

Melvin and Ramon believed He Who Yells Longest and Loudest Wins. They were big men, and neither had been wrong a day in his life. If those two started yipping at each other, neither would back down. As the noise got louder and louder, windows along 25th and Clipper streets would pop open. Twenty minutes later, a police cruiser would roll up, and two officers would walk onto the court. The cops were usually apologetic about asking if we could please be more respectful of the neighborhood. We'd agree, and the game would go on. But I suspect a few of our guys never felt comfortable with even the mildest confrontation with a uniformed officer. Maybe yes, maybe no.

We also desperately needed infusions of young guys. But when they came, they were either hothead punks who wanted to fight more than play or really good players who found us boring. Once, one of our guys brought a high school kid he was mentoring. The kid was 7 feet tall. He wore a little beanie on top of his head, but I could barely see it. He would hold the ball up in the air with one hand while everyone ran

around in a circle trying to do something about it. Then, he'd turn, smile, and drop the ball in the basket. He never came back either.

Too much arguing, guys getting older, guys getting hurt, guys moving away: it all added up. We tried moving the start time up to 8 a.m., and then to 9. Soon we were down to 10 or 12 guys, and then only eight or nine. You can play with eight, but it's not as much fun as with 10.

Then, The Counselor hooked on with Muni. As a new driver, he had to work Saturday mornings. That was the last straw. Soon, only four or five would show up, not enough to play. And by this spring, I would ride my bike down on Saturday morning and there would be nobody there but me.

Thich is how it's been since April. Here it is almost November, and I still pedal down to Lick every Saturday at the beginning of my bike run, hoping I'll turn onto 25th Street and see the cars double-parked on the sidewalk, smell the weed, and hear the laughter. But I

I've got "Doug's Private Highlight Reel." I suspect all the guys do, too. All it takes is one or two great shots a year, and you've got quite a collection. You play each shot over and over as you fall asleep at night.

I'd rather be playing ball, but the courts are empty. We're like Herb's Fine Foods. It's over.

~~※ド~

Doug Konecky is a writer, songwriter, and musician, who lives with his wife Barbara on Sanchez Street. He is currently finishing a collection of short stories entitled "The Rabbis of Baugkok."







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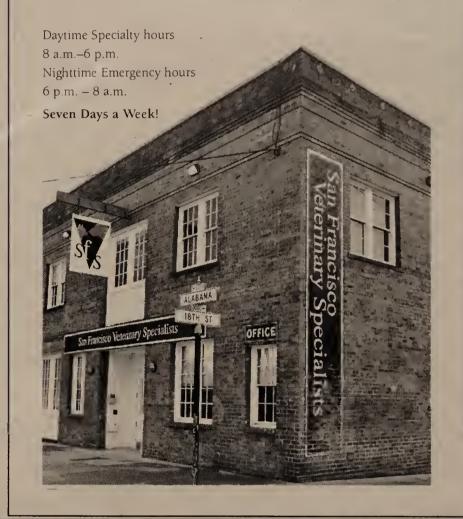




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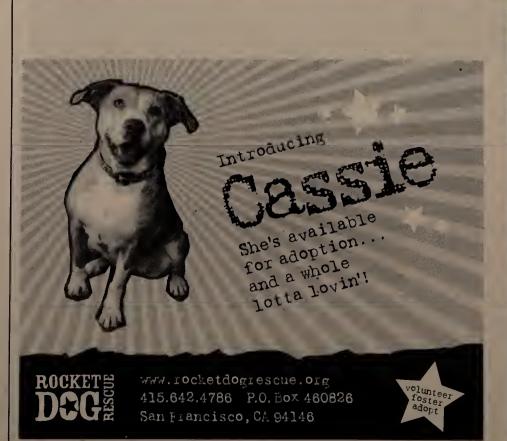
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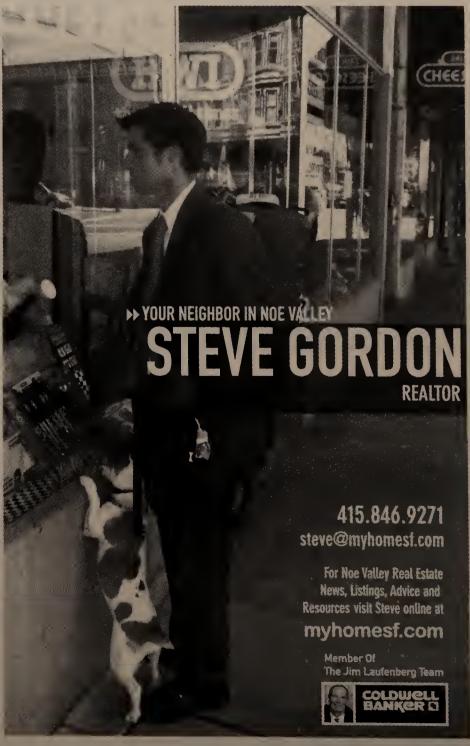
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FLORENCE'S FAMILY LBUM Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

De Turkey Det Got Avay—Almost

owadays, when preparing for a Thanksgiving feast, we have only to go to the market to purchase a bird that has already been plucked, drawn, and readied for the oven. Compare this with the Pilgrims, who had to hunt their turkeys in the woods with firearms. But I remember one Thanksgiving turkey that had to be chased and captured—without the aid of a weapon—making those involved feel somewhat akin to the early settlers of

This happened in the late 1930s when my parents' lodge for Swedishspeaking Finlanders, the Star of Finland, held its annual "Turkey Whist" party at Dovre Hall on 18th Street.

Each October, the lodge ordered more than a hundred turkeys from a farmer in the San Joaquin Valley. They then printed up a few thousand raffle tickets and doled out the tickets to lodge members and their families so they could sell them to friends. I remember the feeling of relief when I sold the last of my large allotment.

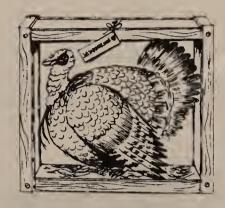
On the big night of this particular Turkey Whist party, the ticket stubs were put into a large box, shaken well, then drawn. The names of the lucky ticket holders were announced between card games. Winners of the whist games (an early form of bridge) also won turkeys, so the hall was filled with tables of eager players.

As each winner was called, his or her name was written on a tag that was then tied to one of the many crates—each containing a live turkey—stacked in the entrance of Dovre Hall. During the long evening, the crowd gradually thinned as each winner claimed his gobbling prize and carried it away.

My good-looking older brother Mike, who was then 21 and working on Montgomery Street, did not attend the early

part of the Turkey Whist hecause of a heavy date with a blue-eyed heauty, Margaret Schudel, who lived on Elizabeth Street in Noe Valley. Mike and Margaret dropped in at Dovre Hall after their date, but hy the time they arrived, there was only one turkey crate left in the entrance.

When my brother glanced at the tag, he was astounded to see his name written on it as a raffle winner. Unprepared for this good fortune, he had to borrow a rope to tie the large crate to his Ford V-8 coupe. Then he carefully drove his date home—even though the evening was still young. (This was the only time that Margaret had to play second fiddle to a turkey.)



The next day back at the house, my father began to build an impromptu pen for the bird in the yard, using assorted pieces of wood and a woven wire bedspring for the top. The pen seemed big enough, but my father questioned its security.

His brother Ed, however, reassured

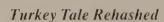
him, saying, "The turkey can't get out of that pen.'

Uncle Ed, a shy, silent man except when he'd had a couple of drinks, had spent the early part of the day at the Pilsner Bar on Church Street near Market, so he was feeling talkative, and his Swedish accent was more pronounced than usual. "Det turkey von't go anywhere, Yohn," he declared.

When the task was completed, we went into the house for a coffee break. It wasn't long, however, before my younger brother Warde burst in, shouting that the turkey had escaped and was headed for the hill. My father and brothers ran out in pursuit, but the hill was covered with dry grass and gopher holes-making it difficult terrain to maneuver—and the turkey had a good start.

The three figures sped unevenly up the slope while I watched breathlessly from the window and Uncle Ed gave a blow-by-blow account: "Vhat a race! Det turkey iss vun qvick runner—but Yohn and de boys are pretty qvick too. Oh no! Yohn vent down (tripped by a gopher hole), but he yumped up again! De tree fellas are catching up. De turkey's vaiting at de top of de hill—no, he's spreading his vings. Yumping yimminy, he's flying avay! Vell, I warned Yohn det turkey vould get avay."

And that's what happened. At the top of the hill, the bird spread his wings and disappeared over the crest, the three men still after him. As they followed, they watched the turkey soar down and over the nearest rooftops, heading for a street edged with



Twenty-lirst Street resident Florence Holub first pecked out this story on her trusty typewriter in 1989. The tale proved so popular with readers that the Voice reprinted it three years later and then again in 2001. It celebrates a certain unforgettable Thanksgiving 70 years ago when Florence was a mere 18. We hope you enjoy it—and have a varm and vunderful Thanksgiving.

—Sally Smith, Editor

bungalows—a perfect landing strip. But by the time they got to the street, the fugitive was nowhere to be seen. After searching every front yard in several blocks, they finally found him huddled under a bush, gasping for breath.

The three hunters, each gripping a section of bird, marched to the butcher shop nearby, where our exhausted escapee was promptly immobilized, de-feathered, and put in cold storage.

n the day before Thanksgiving, we collected our turkey and began preparations for the feast. Since we had lost our mother to cancer a year earlier, and I was the only female in the family, it became my duty to cook the dinner. I was 18 at the time and had never had anything to do with a turkey before; it could have been a disaster but for the kindness of a good neighbor, who helped me with the dressing and baking directions the night before.

In the morning, I stuffed, baked, and served that turkey, along with the traditional fare of mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, corn. salad, and—from Plate's Bakery on 24th Street—pumpkin pie. Gathered around the dinner table was our family of four, my brother's girlfriend Margaret, and a very quiet Uncle Ed.

All six of us had been acquainted with the entree, and remembered the great effort expended by those powerful thighs, so we feared the meat would be tough, but it wasn't. In fact, of all the Thanksgiving turkeys we sampled over the years, this remarkable bird was the most delicious, the most memorable-and the most appreciated for his sacrifice!



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SCHOOL REPORT

 $H^{\it ere's}$ the latest from parents and volunteers at Noe Valley's public schools: James Lick Middle School on Noe Street, Alvarado Elementary School on Douglass, and Fairmount Elementary on Chenery and 30th.

JAMES LICK

826 Valencia Embarking on a Writers' Room

26 Valencia, San Francisco's non-profit **O**youth writing center on Valencia Street (and the closest pirate supply store to Noe Valley!), is hosting a town hall on Nov. 29 to share some exciting news. In January 2008, 826 Valencia will open a Writers' Room at James Lick Middle School. Looking less like a classroom and more like the cabin of a ship, the new Writers' Room will provide all 556 students at the school with a place where they can be creative and have fun while working with a salty crew of tutors from 826.

According to Erin Neeley, 826 Valencia's educational programs director, the approach is simple: a teacher will send half of her class to the Writers' Room to work with volunteers from 826 Valencia. while she works with the other half. By reducing class size and providing one-onone tutoring, the program will allow teachers and mentors to carry out exciting new projects and provide more indepth instruction. The Writers' Room also should boost confidence and improve the writing skills of the students, a third of whom are English-language learners.

This fall, 826 has been busy raising funds to reach the Writers' Room's \$57,000 budget, Neeley says. "We're trying to get everyone involved right now, whether it's making a donation, getting involved with our January building weekend, or tutoring at James Lick-community involvement is the most essential and one of the most rewarding parts of the Writers' Room project."

Meanwhile, the school can hardly wait for 826's ship to sail, "I am so excited about the opportunities that this collaboration with 826 Valencia will afford our community," says assistant principal Bita Nazarian. "Our students are a diverse group, with a wide range of skills and strengths. They will greatly benefit from the personal help of one-on-one tutors,"

826 Valencia invites anyone interested in the project to attend the town hall meeting at James Lick, 1220 Noe Street, on Thursday, Nov. 29, at 6 p.m. In addition to a pep rally for the Writers' Room, 826 will hold a raffle. For more information, go to www.826valencia.org/helpout/.

Get Ready for High School!

An assembly held last month by another non-profit, Calfee School Guide, produced quite a buzz among the eighthgraders at James Lick. They suddenly began thinking about high school - and in new and different ways. After watching a presentation describing San Francisco's public high schools, and then listening to former James Lick students talk about their new schools, the kids were suddenly talking about high school on the playground, in the hallways, and in the lobby. One student began to question the wisdom of choosing Lincoln just because he had friends there; "That's not really the school that meets my needs," he decided.

San Francisco boasts 17 public and charter high schools, making the task of finding the perfect match for each of our students a challenge. Still, the families and kids who attended "High School 101," a workshop that included a panel of students from Lick's Class of 2007, loved hearing about the array of public school choices. Some boys who are now at Lowell (enrollment 2,671) and Lincoln (enrollment 2,343) used a lot of body language and swagger as they spoke of learning to deal with their tough academic workload, the modular scheduling, the high standards of their teachers, and the thrills of "off-campus lunch." They said

they were "making the school smaller" by joining special-interest clubs.

Students who chose Gateway (enrollment 441 students) showed sincere appreciation for their closeknit community; "All the teachers are so dedicated! They all stay after school to help students. The science teachers all go to one room. They tell us, 'We are here to help you."

Students from School of the Arts (enrollment 806 students) were very passionate. They spoke of the challenges of "balancing academics with keeping up my art" and how they had to "be open to constructive criticism." They were excited by "learning about the other students' disciplines" in arts class, and they appreciated "how unique everyone here is." They also liked the fact that "students come from very far away to attend the school, even from out of the country."

To begin your own public high school search, go to www.calfeeschoolguide.org.

Open House for Fifth-Graders and **Their Parents**

You can discover why James Lick is becoming such a popular school choice, and learn what our school can offer your child, by attending an open house on Friday, Nov. 9, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Come meet some of exceptional staff, lively students, and supportive families.

If you're interested in James Lick's dynamic new arts programs, come to our Fall Showcase of Music and Dance the following week on Thursday evening, Nov. 15. You'll see the talented students in our dance, drama, and music programs, performing in the James Lick auditorium. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m.

Unique Partnership with Alvarado

Students will have fun helping others in a new tutoring program that will bring 30 Alvarado Elementary students to James Lick Middle School on one or two afternoons a week. The Alvarado kids primarily English-language learners will walk to James Lick for 30 minutes of tutoring in reading from eighth-graders in Sarah Jones' Peer Resources class. (See more in Alvarado section.)

Chats with the Principal

A chance to meet and talk with Principal Carmelo Sgarlato is yours on the third Friday of the month from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., in the school cafeteria. The next chat is scheduled for Nov. 16. Food and heverages are provided. Call the school to confirm date and topic.

In addition, James Lick School Tours for parents of fifth-graders will continue every Thursday morning through Dec. 13. Meet in front of the school office at 9 a.m. No reservations are needed.

—Sue Cattoche

ALVARADO

Students to Walk to Tutoring

It takes a village to fend off a state, so when Alvarado Elementary School learned it needed to boost test scores to meet federal requirements or risk losing control of its curriculum, parents, teachers, and students teamed up to make the difference.

This fall, new principal Robert Broecker helped kindergarten parent Todd David, PTA president Gabriela Tinoco, and Excel Afterschool Enrichment Program site director LaRon Smith identify about 50 third- and fourth-grade students needing help. The students now come after school Monday through Thursday and read with a parent volunteer for an hour.

"These are kids who can really benefit from one-on-one attention," David says. Because the Excel teachers work with about 20 children at a time, the tutoring helps lighten their load, he points out. "We're trying to supplement the teachers [so] the teachers can work with smaller groups."

Since then, David has expanded the program by enlisting the aid of eighthgraders at James Lick Middle School. The eighth-graders, who are also peer counselors under the supervision of Lick teacher Sarah Jones, will tutor the younger kids on their Noe Street campus

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45



Fitness Parade Stops Traffic: On Oct. 11, after hearing a talk by Genentech's Joanne Lust on the importance of diet and exercise, inspired students, teachers, and families from St. Philip School on Elizabeth Street took to the streets for a mile-long fitness walk in and around Noe Valley. Shown in the vanguard are Finn McCarthy, Loretta Bonifacio, Raquel Soto, Naomi Huson, Charlene Commer, and Thomas Watterson. T-shirts were donated by Redmond and Mary Lyons of R Group Developments and Graphic Sportswear of San Francisco. Photo by Paula Whitehead



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S C H O O L R E P O R T

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

at the end of Alvarado's school day.

David will walk the students from Alvarado to Lick two days a week - on Tuesdays and Thursdays—for a half-hour of reading with the older students.

"On one level, you're helping kids develop a love for reading, which in itself is a wonderful thing," says David, adding that many educators believe reading comprehension is what helps students jump through the hoops required to pass the

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the PTA's Gabriela Tinoco at gtinoco@comcast.net or call the school at 695-5695. Help us make the difference!

Spare a Donation?

Of course, we'll always take cold, hard cash, too. Alvarado kicks off its annual fund Nov. 1, and we hope neighbors will join parents and teachers in donating amounts both small and large. The money supports our part-time science and arts teachers, afterschool arts and culture clubs, motor skills classes, a computer teacher, and computers. Your donation makes all of Noe Valley a better place by enriching our children's lives. Thank you!

We'll also take any spare handypeople who can lend a hand on Nov. 3, our Work Day. Alvarado is a beautiful old building, thanks in large part to the volunteers who come and spruce it up on this organized work day.

Our Day of the Dead Assembly happens Nov. 2, though Day of the Dead artwork can be seen all around the school.

Come and see how the school celebrates its great cultural diversity!

—Heather World

FAIRMOUNT

Higher Scores and Hot Chocolate-**Both Translate Well**

It was a rainy Friday evening, yet the Lgroup of families congregating inside the Fairmount cafeteria to look at last year's student achievement scores was surrounded by a warm glow.

The evening began with a festive dinner that featured the school's new salad bar, which makes fresh veggies available every day for students at lunchtime. After dinner, the students left for activities in the classrooms while their parents settled in to hear an analysis of last year's student test data prepared by members of Fairmount's School Site Council.

Reports from Data Night showed that for the fourth year in a row Fairmount Elementary's students made gains in language arts and mathematics. The crowd of parents learned that the math gains were most likely the result of teachers working together and sharing strategies.

The School Site Council now funds additional time for teachers to meet outside the classroom to focus on those students who need extra assistance. Principal Karling Aguilera-Fort explained how Fairmount's new ELD (English Language Development) program grouped students of similar abilities to advance their language skills through a systematic approach. All of the school's Spanish-immersion students have a separate English teacher who works with them in a group that may contain students from different classes.

The meeting was conducted in Spanish, and English-speaking parents wore headphones to hear the translation provided by parent Andy Kuster. While translation is often provided in Spanish at other schools, Fairmount is known to be a city leader in conducting meetings in Spanish, with the English-speaking parents only seconds behind in joining the laughter when a joke is made.

The advantage of the meeting being led in Spanish was obvious to the attendees: the room was filled with many more Spanish-speaking families than in the past. The involvement from Spanish speakers has jumped tremendously since we began, a few years ago, alternating which language was spoken first at meetings.

After meeting as a large group, the parents broke into small groups and brainstormed suggestions for better ways to help students learn, expand parent and community involvement, and improve school climate. Data Night ended with even more warmth as Aguilera-Fort brought a

large pot of hot chocolate to the cafeteria for all the parents and kids to enjoy.

Little Kids Keep Rocking

Fairmount's music programs continue to be a wonderful asset for the students. In addition to the regular music classes for fourth- and fifth-grade students, the school supports a chorus group and Little Kids Rock, which teaches beginning and intermediate guitar classes in an after-school setting. A highlight of this program is that students keep the guitar they learn to play on. The program, which was begun by recently retired teacher Diane Meagher, is being carried forward by current teacher Christina Velasco.

Come Take a Tour

School tours continue every Tuesday morning. Call 695-5669 for details or drop by to see our dual Spanish-immersion program in action and chat with our principal, Karling Aguilera-Fort.

—Tom Ruiz

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Fairmount Elementary School Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal 65 Chenery Street at Randall 415-695-5669 www.fairmountschoolpta.org

Alvarado Elementary School Robert Broecker, Principal 625 Douglass Street at Alvarado 415-695-5695

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Would you rather read about Abu Ghraib or the African Tooth Fairy? So would Stephen Colbert! These prisons/characters can be explored in books suggested by *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske and Children's Librarian Pam Ow, of the San Francisco Public Library. To see if a book is available at your local branch, visit the Library online at www.sfpl.org. Note: The Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey Street is closed for renovation until this spring.

Adult Fiction

- After killing her dementia-ridden mother, a woman ponders the events in her life that led her to the crime in The Almost Moon by Alice Sebold.
- With the help of a young librarian, a witness to the bombing of Hiroshima goes on a quest to find a legendary 19th-century notebook on clouds, in Stéphane Audeguy's debut novel The Theory of Clouds.
- The narrator of Brock Clarke's An Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England admits he accidentally burned down the Emily Dickinson homestead, but he goes on a search for the perpetrator of other literary landmark fires.

Adult Nonfiction

- In My Lobotomy, Howard Dully describes the lifelong repercussions of the "ice-pick" operation performed on him at the age of 12.
- Stephen Colbert's humor targets faith, family, and culture in I Am America (And So Can You!), which includes a transcript of his speech at the 2006 White House Correspondents' Dinner.
- O.J. Simpson's hypothetical confession to a double murder, *If I Did It*, includes com^{*} mentary by the Goldman family and an essay by Dominick Dunne.
- In The Sutras of Abu Ghraib: Notes from a Conscientions Objector, former U.S. Army Reserve mechanic Aidan Delgado exposes the abuse, ignorance, and xenophobia that led him to seek an early discharge.
- -Karol Barske of the Noe Valley Voice staff

Children's Fiction

- Ruby Raccoon invites her woodland friends to join her for a day of relaxing fun, but everyone is too busy. She discovers that she can be happy all by herself, in *Ruby's Perfect Day* by Susan Hill, illustrated by Margie Moore. Ages 5 to 6.
- Mouse's house in an oak tree is located above Mole's hole, so these neighbors share a fun friendship and help each other out, in Wong Herbert Yee's charming beginning reader, Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mole. Ages 5 to 8.
- While Amina and her family are visiting their rélatives in Mali, she eagerly anticipates the loss of a tooth because she wants to receive a chicken from the African Tooth

BRANCH HOURS

Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616 Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat 12-6 10-9 12-9 10-6 1-6 10-6 Glen Park Branch Library

2825 Diamond St., 337-4740 Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri 10-6 12-8 1-7 1-6

Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800 Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri 1-9 10-9 10-9 10-6 1-6 Fairy! Amina's older sister, Penda Diakité, wrote I Lost My Tooth in Africa in Amina's voice, and their father, Baba Wagué Diakité, illustrated the colorful scenes of village home life. Ages 5 to 9.

- Chen Jiang Hong's paintings on silk elcgantly portray Tang dynasty China in The Magic Horse of Han Gan. A horse painted by the great court painter Han Gan comes alive to become a warrior's invincible steed in battle. Translated from French by Claudia Zoe Bedrick. Ages 6 to 9.
- As 10-year-old Lucky misses her mother, worries about her guardian leaving, and wonders if she will be able to find her higher power, she gets a boost from her relationships with Lincoln, Short Sammy, and Brigitte, in the latest book to win the Newbery medal, Susan Patron's The Higher Power of Lucky. Ages 9 and up. (This hook was recommended by Noe Valley Branch Children's Librarian Carol Small.)

Children's Nonfiction

■ Janet Pensiero offers a wealth of ideas for Totally Cool Journals, Notebooks & Diaries, crafted with pom-poms, beads, playing cards, and snack boxes. Full-color photographs of the completed projects will inspire you. Ages 9 to 13.

> —Pam Ow. Children's Librarian Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library

LIBRARY EVENTS

Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays

■ The Noe Valley Library invites you to enjoy stories, songs, and finger plays with your baby or toddler at the lapsits held on Tuesdays, Nov. 6, 13, 20, and 27, at 10:15 a.m., at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez Street at Clipper Street. Preschool story time, a read-aloud program for kids ages 3 to 5, follows at 11 a.m.

All Aboard the Bookmobile

■ You can get a library card and check out books, CDs, DVDs, and VHS videos at the Noe Valley Bookmobile, which parks on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 665 Elizabeth Street near Dia-

Circle Time with Donna and Jazmin

■ Bring your baby or toddler (up to age 6) to a bilingual Spanish and English music program on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 10:30 a.m., at the Eureka Valley Branch Library, on 16th Street near Market. There is also an afternoon story time the same day, at 3:30 p.m.

Readers Unite

■ The Radar Salon meets for literary conversation from 7 to 8:30 p.m., while members of a book discussion group trade their own stories at 7:30 p.m., at the Eureka Valley Library, 16th and Market. All are welcome to these library-sponsored programs.

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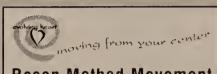
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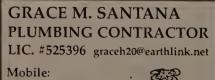
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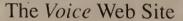
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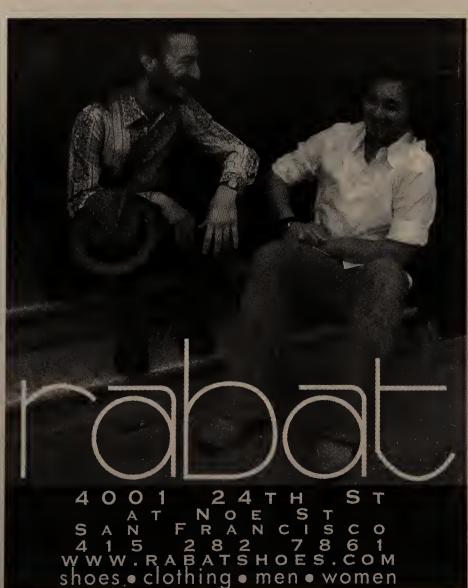
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San Francisco is making progress.

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War and Peace and Carrots

By Mazook

Noe Valley mobilizes: On the morning of Saturday, Oct. 27, a group of about 75 Noe Valley neighbors marched along 24th Street from Castro to Church, in protest of the war in Iraq. As the delegation walked down the sidewalk (past Harry Aleo's "Liberal Loonies" window), passing cars honked in support of the banner-carriers, who urged drivers to get out of their internal-combustion engines and join the parade.

The marchers J-Churched it to Civic Center Plaza to join a chorus of 20,000 citizens from other neighborhoods around San Francisco. Then the Noe tribe marched back to Dolores Park for a rally, singing that same old sad song: Stop the War Now.

Before starting the march, the Noe Valley delegation mingled at 24th and Castro, and sorted through their signs and banners. Those assembled wanted to talk about the wretched mess our government has created by invading Iraq four years ago.

Steve Hyman of Sanchez Street, one of the organizers, said his main frustration was "we have now succeeded in totally destabilizing the region and created terrorists. Quite simply, our leaders are addicted to war."

"It makes me feel better being here with like-minded people," said Clipper Street resident Judy Dunworth. "I feel so bad about what we are doing to the people we've invaded."

Marcher Joe Morehead, who lives up on Fountain Street, said, "Over the years, I have been to too many of these marches, but I am extremely concerned right now.... We now seem to be gearing up for war with Iran. When will this insanity end?"

The sign made by Kristin Anundsen of 27th Street was direct and to the point: "The World Can't Wait, Drive Out the Bush Administration-Impeach Now!"

Howard Fallon, also a 27th Streeter, was wearing a Code Pink shirt. "I just bought it," he said. Fallon wants to end the War on Terror, "which is taking all the money that we desperately need to use here [to end] poverty and to use for humanitarian and social services."

Elizabeth Street activist Peter Gabel was there, of course. "This was just great," he said, "to see a neighborhood that can mobilize and stand up for itself."

According to Morehead, "The best part for me was for the first time that I can remember [he moved to the neighborhood in 1973], there was an actual Noe Valley delegation at an antiwar rally, and we all stood at Civic Center Plaza together under a big 'Noe Valley' banner, which felt really good. It blew me away when all of us followed a delegation of Sioux Indians who wanted to leave all the what I thought was boring rhetoric at Civic Center and lead the march up Market to the rally at Dolores Park. One of the Sioux turned around to a bunch of us and said: 'I have heard enough of white man's talk,' I could not have agreed more!"

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COURTS AND SPARKS: On Oct. 1, we saw some very positive action initiated by one of our local coalitions, the Friends of Noe Courts. Finally, the bulldozers arrived on the corner of Douglass and 24th streets and started some heavy-duty excavations to create a brand-new children's playground.

You all remember two years ago when FNC's Laura Norman and Eden Halbert decided it was time to mobilize the community to redesign the children's play area and make it more compatible with the grass area where the dogs run. Committees formed, and FNC raised \$18,000 for improvements. FNC got the support of Supervisor Bevan Dufty, then turned to Mayor Gavin Newsom for help. They got the Rec and Park Department to earmark \$400,000 for the task.

"We are really excited that the work has begun," says Norman, "and we are hopeful that the playground will be finished by the end of the year.... We will use the \$18,000 to buy picnic tables, benches, and furnishings, and we want to raise an additional \$10,000 to do more landscaping," says Norman.

Some of you might recall that another neighborhood coalition, Friends of Noe Valley, saved a totally decaying Noe Courts from extinction 30 years ago, when the city was



Noe Valleyans start gathering at Castro and 24th streets on Saturday, Oct. 27, to march as a contingent in a citywide protest of the Iraq War.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

considering selling the park for development. The Friends raised \$138,000 and provided Rec and Park with a design for the new children's play area, a tennis court, new basketball court, benches, and landscaping.

In a front-page article in the October 1977 *Voice*, Sally Smith and Cindy Baumann heralded the Friends of Noe Valley's heroic rescue by describing Noe Courts generally as "an appropriate set for the exercise yard in *Birdman of Alcatraz*," and more particularly as "basically a third of a block of corroded blacktop surrounded by a towering chain-link fence [with] a small children's play area, graffitiscarred restrooms, and a few token trees on the perimeter, but the overall impression is that of a 'cage with no roof on it,' in the words of Clyde Self, who plays basketball there."

Norman promises that one of FNC's future projects will be raising money to reopen the restrooms, which have been somewhat graffiti-free but nevertheless locked-up for at least 30 years. Not a problem for the tiny tots for whom the playground was designed, since they all wear diapers. Nor is it one for the dogs and their pooper-scooping owners. For the rest of us, it is quite a climb up to Douglass Park, where you hope the restrooms will be open.

How much does a small park bathroom cost, anyway?

CHESS FOR FUN: The mini-park, or rather rest-your-feet area, in front of the city's public parking lot on 24th Street was completed this fall, thanks to the Noe Valley Association—Community Benefit District, working with various city departments. The spot has new street furniture: three benches, and a table with two chairs. There's a checkers/chessboard embedded in the table, and it's set back enough to accommodate parents with strollers.

NVA-CBD director Debra Niemann says she is "quite pleased with the way the minipark turned out and really happy that so many people are using it these days.

people are using it these days.

"By the way," Niemann points out, "the checker and chess pieces are located underneath the table's chairs. We will be posting a notice there soon to ask those who use them to please return them" to the seat.

Niemann says some finishing touches will be coming to the mini-park soon, namely, flower baskets and a clock.

The NVA and its environmental chairman, David Eiland, also are pleased with the new sidewalk installed last August in front of Just for Fun. The property owner gave Eiland the go-ahead to put in a red-orange permeable concrete sidewalk, "which looks like regular

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concrete, except it will absorb the rainwater and any pollutants, rather than send them into the sewers and down to the Mission District and into the Bay," says Eiland. "We hope this will be a model project for the rest of the neighborhood."

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PROPOSING A TOAST: Rumors are true, and the headline of my column last month, "Herb's Is Toast," has proved prophetic: Herb's Fine Foods, which supplied eggs and bacon to Noe Valleyans for 64 years, will indeed reincarnate as Noe Valley's second location of the Church Street eatery Toast.

We were able to negotiate a lease with the building owners, the McFadden family, and are now going through the permit process to remodel the restaurant and open another Toast, in hopefully about six months," says Toast co-owner Eddie Nasser.

Nasser and his two brothers, Kamal and Anis, took over Hungry Joe's on the corner of Church and Day a year ago and turned it into the first Toast. It has become a popular weekday breakfast, lunch, and dinner spot in Upper Noe Valley, and it's packed for brunch on the weekends.

"We plan on having the same menu as our Church Street restaurant, and will stay open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the week," says Nasser, "including dinner." (Herb's was only open for breakfast and lunch.) They're still considering what the weekend hours will be.

"In keeping with Herb's tradition, we will have senior specials," Nasser says, "since we know that there were quite a few seniors who came into Herb's for an early breakfast, and several have come out to our Church Street restaurant since Herb's closed.

Nasser says he and his brothers have already started stripping the floor at Herb's to install a new one, "and we've found six layers of linoleum so far that we've had to remove."

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OUR PLATE IS FULL: Chris Cosentino, head chef of the very popular Church Street Italian restaurant Incanto, comneted with Traci Des

Jardins and other chefs on the Food Network's Next Iron Chef last month. The show premiered on Oct. 7, when Cosentino was challenged to make a dessert with tripe in it. His solution was a goat's milk rice pudding with fried honeycomb tripe panzanella, which turned out to be good enough for Cosentino to progress to the next round.

Cosentino and Incanto owner Mark Pastore have also started an artisan salumi business (Boccalone), so they can offer Noe Valley patrons the "tasty salted pig parts" they love. According to Pastore, last month they started preparing boxed artisan meats for Salumi Society members, who will pick up the handbutchered meats at Incanto two Saturdays a month. You can get a sacchetto (a small bag), containing an assortment of fresh sausage, and cooked and cured meats. The Piglet sacchetto is for two people and costs \$174 for three months. Check out www.boccalone.biz for more info.

Another item in the food basket is the new diet and delivery service started by Noe Valley resident Jessica Wallack-Cohen, called Zone San Francisco. ZSF will deliver three meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and two snacks)



Picture the Carrots: Thanks to pressure from the Merchants Association, the owners of the vacant Real Food Company applied some brightly colored paper and a new coat of paint just in time for the Harvest Fest. But in fours years of fruitlessness, there's been no sign the owners actually plan to renovate the building.

Phata by Pamela Gerard

to your door at 6 a.m. According to Wallack-Cohen, Zone meals include 40 percent carbs from fruits and vegetables, 30 percent lean protein, and 30 percent "favorable fats." The cost: \$39.99 per day. Zone San Francisco is online or call 608-9195.

Kookez (24th above Castro) is now open for lunch with a geographically diverse lunch fare at lunchtime prices: \$5.25 to \$9.95. Myself, I like the Laredo Chicken Enchiladas Suizas.

The Clay Pot, on Church near 29th, opened in advance of its "grand opening" last month, and the place has been packed. This is Noe Valley's first Indian restaurant, and a lot of the locals are trying out what looks to be good food at reasonable prices.

Upper Noe folks are also talking about Bella Venezia, the relatively new southern Italian eatery a couple blocks away on Mission near Valencia. Noe Valley resident Wendy Gallagher says, "I've been going there two to three times a week," also for the good food at reasonable prices.

Meanwhile, Curves exercise studio has closed on Church Street. A connection?

There may not be food there, but a new studio called Fima's Photography opened on Castro near 25th last month. Fima Gelman is a longtime Noe Valley resident, but we'll tell you more about him in a future issue.

PLAYING THE MARKET: To follow up our September page-one story, the rumor about Bell Market morphing into Whole Foods seems to be "a done deal," according to very reliable sources. However, the transformation will not occur until sometime shortly before Bell's lease runs out in April 2009.

In August, Whole Foods' web site's "Stores in Development" section identified the Bell Market space, albeit not specifically (but we all know that Bell is the only 16,790-squarefoot store in Noe Valley). After the Voice's September story, the info was removed from the web site (casting doubt), but in the last month the Noe Valley store was put back on the web site's developing stores list.

Whole Foods' Northern California marketing director, Jolyn Bibb, finally returned our telephone calls with a statement that she can make no comments about it right now, but "we will be having some news for you during the first week of November, My V.P. says that we can't comment now.'

What about the web site? Her response: "No comment right now."

Ralphs Northern California boss, Chris O'Leary, who oversees our Bell, also gave us a for-the-record no-comment response, and referred us to the chain's Southern California offices (which did not return phone calls).

Even Supe Bevan Dufty was mum on the record, but he confirmed that any changes at Bell Market won't occur "until the first or second month of 2009.

To set the record straight on an item I ran last month about Real Food's owner Nutraceutical having applied for a permit to demolish the building, what I should have said is that a Nutra representative told the Noe Valley Merchants Association at a March meeting that they were "going to apply for permits in April." When we followed up with Supervisor Dufty, he said his office researched the applications, and found none for the site.

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NOE COYOTE: Douglass Street resident Janet Kessler, who wrote about her friendly encounters with a covote on Twin Peaks in the September issue of the Voice, has put together a little book called Myca of Twin Peaks: Our Mild-Mannered Neighbor. The book continues the tale of the coyote Kessler is now calling "Myca"-known as "Mike" in the Voiceand includes a bunch of Kessler photos of the animal bouncing about in the hills above Noe Valley. The book, selling for \$10 ("just to recover my printing costs," she says), is sitting on the counter at three shops in Noe Valley: Just for Fun, Cover to Cover, and Phoenix Books. Kessler, who often hikes up around Twin Peaks with her dog Park, says she last saw the coyote in mid-October. "I'm trying not to engage with her these days, and she's keeping her distance now, too."

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ALL 4,000 SOULS DAY: I hope you all had a happy Halloween and enjoyed the annual parade of costumed kids on 24th Street. One Stop Party Shop reports that the number-one dress-up this year was as pirates. Arrrgh!

The next holiday coming up is Armistice Day on Nov. 11, which celebrates the end of WWI. Now it's called Veterans Day, since WWI was not the "War to End All Wars."

Word is out that there will be a display of 4,000 lights at Dolores Park on Nov. 11 during the evening hours of 6 to 9, to honor all our American soldiers who have died in Iraq. (See Short Takes again.) I hope Noe Valley will come out and remember them.

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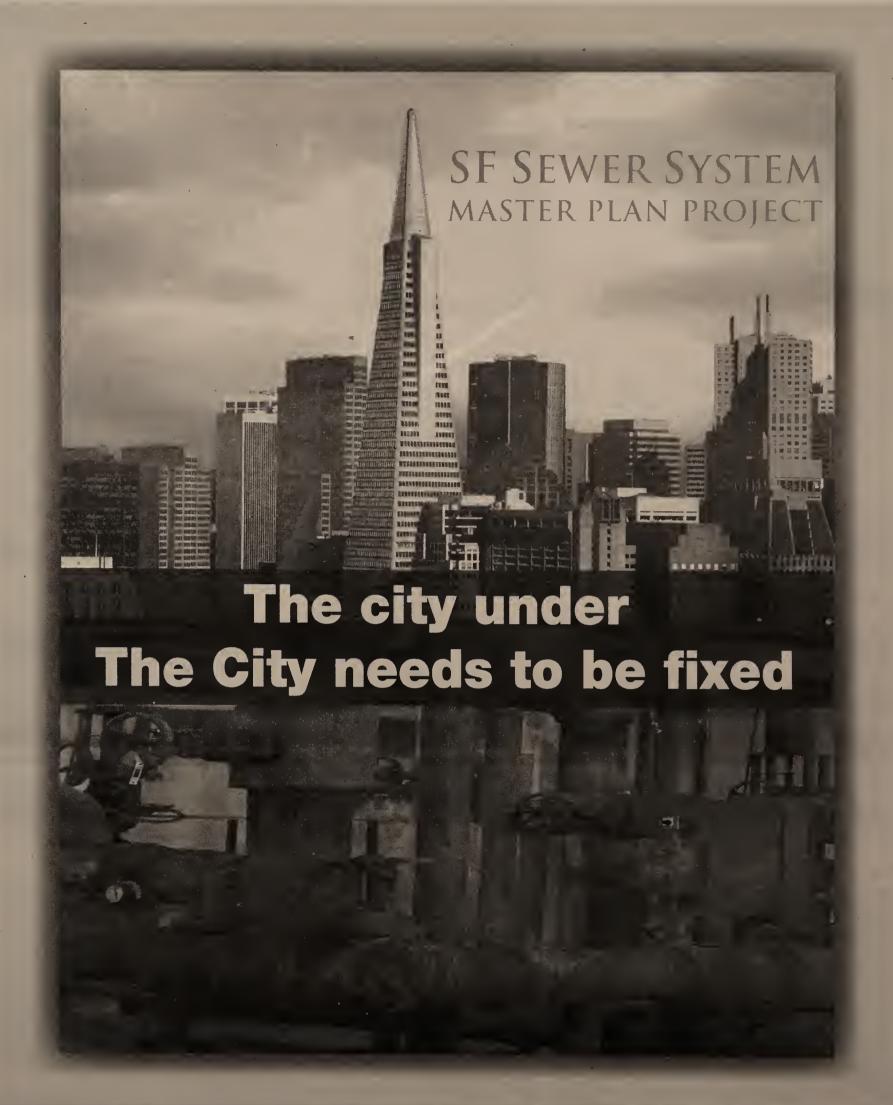


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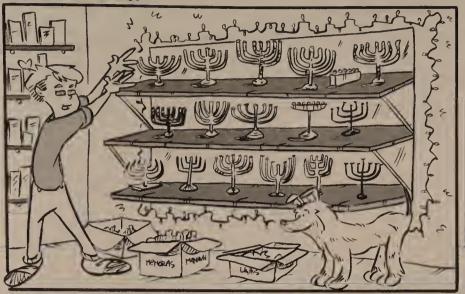
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Thanksgiving Potluck from the Voice Staff

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

Vaguely Asian Cabbage Salad (Serves 6)

Contributed by John Holmlin

Vaguely Asian Cabbage Salad is always a hit at our house-great for work potlucks, too. It's easy with a capital E, takes about 15 minutes. The recipe says it serves six—but not if I get it passed to me first.

Ingredients

For the salad:

1 package "Oriental Flavor" Top Ramen noodles (reserve the flavor packet)

1/2 cup slivered almonds

1/4 cup sesame seeds (toasted is nice, but not essential)

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

1 16-ounce package of already-choppedand-bagged cabbage slaw

1 or 2 shredded carrots, depending on if you like carrots or love carrots.

For the dressing:

Flavor packet from Top Ramen noodles

1/4 cup vegetable oil

2 tablespoons rice vinegar (seasoned is nice, but not essential)

2 tablespoons of soy sauce

1 tablespoon of sugar 2 teaspoons sesame oil

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Break up noodles into shreds and put them into an 8-inch square pan with the almonds and sesame seeds, and oil. Give a couple of stirs, bake for 10 minutes or until browned. Toss with cabbage and carrots in a large salad bowl.

In a small bowl, whisk together all the dressing ingredients. Toss together with the salad and enjoy.

Betsy's Macaroni Cauliflower Casserole

Contributed by Betsy Bannerman

This hot easserole reminds me of fall back

Ingredients

8 ounces macaroni

I small cauliflower head cut into florets

1-1/4 cups grated cheese (cheddar, Jack, mozzarella, almost any kind)

Mustard powder (to taste) Dried sage (to taste)

Salt and pepper

3 eggs beaten

Following the package directions, cook the macaroni for about five minutes in boiling water. Add the cauliflower florets and çook another 3 minutes. Drain.

Mix together the cheese, mustard powder, sage, a little salt and pepper, and beaten eggs. Add to macaroni/cauliflower and mix well. Place the mixture in a greased dish and bake in 375-degree oven for about 25 minutes or until set. Serves 4 to 5 people.

Hello Dollies

Contributed by Sally Smith

To counteract the healthfulness of Heidi's green bean recipe above, I'm also offering this extremely tasty Hello Dolly bars recipe, a classic from the '50s.

Ingredients

1 stick of butter

1 cup graham cracker crumbs (1/2 cup more for 9x13 pan)

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

1 cup butterscotch chips (very optional add more chocolate chips)

1 cup coconut flakes

1 cup chopped walnuts

1 can Eagle brand sweetened condensed

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt the stick of butter in a 9x9 (or larger) baking pan. Sprinkle over it in layers: graham crackers, chips, coconut, and nuts. Drizzle condensed milk over all. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes or until slightly browned on top. Cool for 20 minutes before cutting into squares.

Florence's Swedish Meatballs

Contributed by Florence and Leo Holub

This recipe came from one of Florence's aunts, descendants of Swedish stock who emigrated across the Baltic Sea in 1637, thus becoming Swede-Finns. They journeyed to America in the 1880s, first to Montana and Idaho, where Florence was born, and then on to San Francisco in 1925.

Ingredients

1-1/2 pounds ground beef

1 egg

2 slices bread

1/2 cup milk

1 onion chopped

3 ounces butter

Salt and pepper

3 tablespoons flour

2 cups water

1 tin evaporated milk

Garlic powder

Dash Tabasco sauce

Mix egg and milk in a bowl. Crumble bread into it, letting it soak until thoroughly broken up. Fry onions in a little butter. Add to mixture, together with beef, salt, and pepper. Mix thoroughly. Form into balls about one

inch in diameter. Heat butter and fry meat. Place them in a saucepan. Stir flour into the remaining butter, working it into a smooth paste. Heat water and add gradually, stirring. Stir in canned milk and seasonings. Pour over meatballs and simmer together for 15 minutes. Correct seasoning. Serve with mashed or boiled potatoes and Swedish cranberries (a.k.a. lingonberries), or as a buffet dish hot or cold.

Cool Cole

Contributed by Jeff Kaliss

When in doubt about your kids getting their vegetables, administer this coleslaw to fussy children and observe the spreading smiles.

Ingredients

1/2 head red cabbage

3 tablespoons mayonnaise

2 tablespoons brown sugar

1/4 cup chopped peanuts 1/2 cup strawberry Gatorade Finely chop the half head of red cabbage. Mix it in large bowl with the rest of the ingredients and serve.

Upside Down Pumpkin Pecan Pie

Contributed by Karyn Healy

This recipe was part of last year's Internet chain letter! Sorry, I don't know the author. It was the hit of my holiday party.

1/2 can (1-3/4 cups) pumpkin

1/2 of a 12 oz. can evaporated milk

2 large eggs, lightly beaten 1/4 cup light brown sugar

1/4 cup granulated sugar

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 of a yellow cake mix with pudding (1-3/4 cups)

3/4 cup chopped pecans

1/4 pound (1 stick) butter, melted

Whipped cream and caramel sauce, if

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin, milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Line pan with parchment paper. Pour filling into paper. Sprinkle cake mix on top, and then the pecans. Drizzle butter over all.

Bake for 55 to 60 minutes or until the top is deeply browned and a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool; refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.

To serve, turn upside down onto platter and remove pie pan. Top the dish with whipped cream. Or, make a caramel sauce, consisting of 1 stick of butter, 1 cup light brown sugar, and 1/2 cup heavy cream. Heat three ingredients on stove, stirring constantly, until sauce is well blended. Drizzle on top.

Serves 8.





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THE LAST MEAL

Pamela's Turkey Stuffing Recipe

Contributed by Pamela Gerard

I was a student at the San Francisco Art Institute in 1973 and trying to impress my then boyfriend (now husband) Michael with my cooking. I had to call my mom for directions on "how to cook a turkey" and get her stuffing recipe. In the following years I updated the recipe. The most successful change is the one I made from "a bag of stuffing mix" from the supermarket (Mom) to "an Acme Herb Slab"—and adding a splash of brandy. The Acme bread is what makes this so delicious—you don't need to add any extra seasonings because they are already in the bread.

Ingredients

- 1 Acme Herb Slab (I always get mine at **Church Produce**)
- 4 stalks fresh celery, sliced
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1/2 pound mushrooms, sliced
- 1 can of sliced water chestnuts (for a nice
- 4 tablespoons butter Some water or chicken broth

Two days before you make the stuffing, buy the Acme Herb Slab and cut it into small cubes. Spread it out on two jellyroll pans and let it dry out completely and become hard. I put mine in my gas oven with the pilot light overnight, and that does the trick. Store it in a zip-lock bag till you use it.

Put the bread cubes in a large bowl and cut up about four tablespoons of butter in the bread. Sauté the onion and celery in olive oil and add to bowl. Sauté mushrooms in the remaining oil and add to the bowl with bread, celery, and onions. Drain and rinse the water chestnuts and add. Add some water or chicken broth to moisten the bread cubes to the consistency you want. Add a splash of brandy (if you want).

Spray a 9x12 pan with cooking spray and spread stuffing out evenly. At this point, it can sit out till you are ready to bake it. Bake at 350 degrees till lightly crisp, about 45 minutes to an hour. If you've cooked a turkey, baste the stuffing with some turkey drippings for added flavor.

Our preferred method is cooking the stuffing separately from the turkey, but you can also stuff the turkey-or hedge your bets and do both. This makes plenty for six to eight people. Or for four-with enough left over for hot turkey sandwiches the next day.

Heidi's Green Beans Vinaigrette

Contributed by Heidi Anderson

I had the good fortune to grow up in a Weight Watchers household. At some point when I was young, my mom attended the meetings and lost her baby weight. More importantly, I absorbed healthy habits as I learned to cook at her elbow. So I tend to cook low-calorie and high-flavor without thinking too much about it. Because of that, Thanksgiving dinner has always been for me a bit wondrous: so many high-calorie dishes, all at once! Nowadays when I visit a friend's house for the feast, I bring something that feels like home and makes me feel a little less guilty for partaking in the sweet potato one (hey, are those marshmallows on top? Isn't that like, illegal? Pass me another piece).

Ingredients

- 1 pound fresh green beans, ends trimmed 1/2 teaspoon fresh lemon juice 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

Drop the beans into a saucepan of rapidly boiling water, bring the water back to a boil, and simmer until they are cooked but still firm (about 5 minutes). Drain the beans in a colander and set them aside to cool slightly. In a small bowl, whisk together the lemon juice, some salt to taste if you prefer, and the mustard. Once the mixture is smooth, slowly whisk in the olive oil. Arrange the beans in a shallow serving dish and pour the dressing over them. Serve at once. Yield: 4 servings.

The Voice Mails In Its Recipes

Then it comes to e-mail chain letters, we mostly hit delete with a twinge of guilt and annoyance towards the sender—particularly if it's a good friend or relative—for having put us in the position of killing the chain, thus thwarting hundreds of chain-mail junkies' chances at happiness, riches, socks, etc. Recently, however, an e-mail chain letter calling for recipes passed through the inboxes of several Noe Valley Voice staffers, reminding us that the Season of Overeating is upon us yet again. After sending around our own in-house recipe chain letter, the Voice staff collected a melting potluck of ideas. We're counting on this mix of recipes to breathe some life into our Thanksgiving or other feasts this year. You are welcome to borrow them. Happy Turkey Day.



Olivia's Low-Fat Pumpkin **Cream-Cheese Cupcakes**

Contributed by Olivia Boler

I love black-bottom cupcakes, and several years ago, discovered their seasonal cousin, the pumpkin cream-cheese cupcake, at a variety of cafes, but I think the first one was at the Double Rainbow in West Portal. After some tinkering, I came up with this low-fat version, which is yummy for breakfast, dessert, or snack-time, especially with a glass of milk.

Ingredients

For the cream-cheese filling:

6 oz. Neufchatel or fat-free cream cheese

1/4 cup egg substitute

1/3 cup sugar Pinch of salt

For the cupcake batter:

2 cups flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda 1/2 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons cinnamon

1-I/2 cups sugar 1 cup egg substitute

2 cups canned pumpkin

1/3 cup vegetable oil 1/2 cup applesauce

With an electric mixer, beat cream cheese in a bowl at medium speed. Add egg, sugar, and pinch of salt. Beat until well blended.

In a large bowl, mix cupcake ingredients together until well blended. Spoon into a muffin pan lined with paper cups, filling each 2/3 full. Swirl a large teaspoon of the cream cheese mixture into the center of the

Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Makes 24 to 36 cupcal

Jennifer's Broccoli Salad

Contributed by Jennifer O. Viereck

This is my favorite potluck salad and always gets raves. It's colorful, tasty, seems exotic, but takes 10 minutes to prepare.

Ingredients

1 head of fresh broccoli with stem, chopped

I purple onion, chopped

1 cup peanuts

I cup golden raisins

I cup cole slaw dressing (I cup mayonnaise, 1/4 cup honey or sugar, 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar)

Mix together, chill at least one hour, go to potluck, accept compliments.

Clara's Baked Apple Slices

Contributed by Sally Smith

I first tasted these baked apples when I was offered some while I was visiting my mom and dad in Virginia. A friend of the family had brought over the dish, still warm from the oven, as comfort food for my mother, who was recuperating from an illness. Oh my, I said, those are the best apples I've ever tasted. When I pried the ingredients out of Clara, who is 89, she acted as if it was nothing special and everybody knew out to make baked apples, didn't they? The recipe is simple, but I had to make it several times before I got the hang of it—sort of. Clara has the touch, and nobody else's baked apples can come close.

2 large apples (Golden Delicious, Fuji)

1/4 cup sugar

1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon nutmcg

1 tablespoon water 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pcel, corc, and slice apples in crescent shapes that are about a half-inch thick. Put apples in a lightly oiled baking pan or casserole dish. Combine sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg, and sprinkle mixture over the apples. Add water and lemon juice. Bake, uncovered, for 20 to 25 minutes, basting halfway through. Apple slices should be soft but still keep their shape. Serves 2 or 3. (The recipe can easily be doubled to yield four to six servings.)

Lemon Linguini with Mussels, Clams, and Shrimp

Contributed by Doug Konecky

This recipe is the perfect antidote to Thanksgiving bloat, and as an added bonus, you can find a lot of the ingredients in Noe Valley's local shops. Get the clams, mussels, and shrimp from Sun Fat on Mission Street, and the lemon linguini from PastaGina on Diamond Street.

Ingredients

12 Manila clams

12 black mussels

12 size 20-24 shrimp (1/2 lb.)

12 oz. lemon linguini

2 garlic cloves, chopped 3 tablespoons olive oil

1/4 cup pinot grigio or other dry white wine (tip: cook with the wine you're going to drink with dinner)

1 teaspoon hot chile flakes 1 tablespoons cilantro, chopped

Purge clams and mussels by soaking them for 10 minutes in fresh water, but don't do this more than half an hour before you cook them because the fresh water will kill them.

Cook the pasta'.

Meanwhile, saute the garlic in the oil, add the pepper flakes, stir a few seconds, then toss in the clams, shrimp, and wine. Cover pan and cook two minutes, then stir the shrimp, add mussels, and recover pan. In three minutes, uncover pan and check shellfish. Clams and mussels should be open. Throw away any that aren't.

When mussels turn white or orange and open, they're done. Whenever they're done, the clams are done. When shrimp turn orange, they're done.

Pour cooked pasta into shellfish pan and stir for three minutes or so, so starch from pasta can thicken sauce.

Put in bowl in middle of table and enjoy. Drink the rest of the wine.

> More Truly Decadent Recipes on Page 58.

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